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25 APRIL 1986

EAST EUROPE REPORT

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25 April 1986

AGRICULTURE

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

BASIC PROBLEMS OF SOIL UTILIZATION, FERTILITY EXAMINED

East Berlin WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFT in German Vol 33 No 7, Jul 1985 pp 979-76

[Article by Klaus Ahrens, Dr of Economics, Certified Economist, born 1948, lecturer at the Institute for the Political Economy of Socialism, Academy of Social Sciences; CC SED and by Ulrich Neubauer, Certified Social Scientist, born 1953, scientific candidate at the same institute. Original title: "The More Effective Utilization of the Natural Factor--Particularly of the Soil--in Agriculture."]

[Text] The increased use made of qualitative growth factors in agriculture is unseparably linked with a higher effectiveness of the natural resources and natural conditions, i.e. the natural factor. This factor is the logical starting point for the broad application of scientific-technological progress in the transition of agriculture to comprehensive intensification. Natural services are to be used to a larger degree as a free source of growth and effectiveness.

From the new position of the natural factor in the intensification process, consequences follow for increasing the productive capacity of soil, plant and animal as well as for perfecting the other components of the material-technical basis of agriculture and of work organisation. In this connection a key position is maintained by the soil as agro-ecological system because it is the soil through which a number of free services are offered by nature become effective. Some basic problems of the more effective utilisation of the soil and of increasing its fertility are discussed to show the principal trends of promoting its productive capacity.

Special importance attaches to holding up the reduction in cultivable area and to the profitable use of the material funds on the basis of science and technology. [As printed in original text.]

Implementation of the economic strategy of the SED in agriculture is mainly characterized by the effort to give a comprehensive nature to intensification in this economic area, also. Complexity and increased utilization of scientific-technical progress are moving increasingly to the center of intensification. "More and more, qualitative growth factors determine progress in our agriculture. This development must be further deepened." (Footnote 1) ("Aus dem Bericht des Politbueros an die 9. Tagung des Zen-

tralkomitees der SED," Berichterstatter: E. Honecker, Dietz Publishing Company, East Berlin 1984, p 46)

Increasing the effectiveness of qualitative growth factors in agriculture, particularly of scientific-technical progress, is inseparably tied to more intensive utilization of natural resources and conditions, i.e., the natural factor (Footnote 2) (In the following, the natural factor is defined as the space and time combination of natural resources and conditions which affect the agricultural production process. In our opinion, especially the following elements of the agricultural production process have resource character: soil, cultivated plants, useful animals, micro-organisms, water, air, solar energy. The effect of their utilization is largely influenced through natural conditions [geographic and weather conditions]), since "the economic reproduction process, whatever its specific social character, always intertwines in this field [of agriculture] with the natural reproduction process." (Footnote 3) (K. Marx/F. Engels, "Werke," Dietz Publishing Company, East Berlin 1956 to 1968, Vol 24, p 359) Even under the conditions of a gradual transition to industrial production methods, agricultural production remains a production process strongly influenced by the natural factor, which is under the effect of natural forces and whose results are largely determined by natural production conditions. Theoretical concepts aiming at intensification of agricultural production by ignoring nature, or gradually repressing the influence of the natural factor, have not been confirmed in the practice of socialist development. On the contrary, it became evident that through more intensive utilization of the natural factor, through development of the production and effectiveness potentials inherent in the natural resources and conditions of agriculture, a continuous increase in yields and performance was ensured and improvements in the ratio of expenditure and result were achieved. (Footnote 4) (Compare R. Heinrich, "35 Jahre DDR--35 Jahre erfolgreiche Entwicklung der Landwirtschaft," WIRTSCHAFTSWISSENSCHAFT, No 10/1984, p 1471 ff.)

New demands for more intensive utilization of the natural factor arise from agriculture's transition to comprehensive intensification and from the stable interlocking of production and effectiveness growth. It is a matter of further developing natural growth resources with the aid of science and technology which make possible a production increase through a relatively small additional expenditure of human and material labor. Due to the special characteristic of agriculture, i.e., that it operates with living organisms, productive utilization of biological findings on the metabolic processes in plant and animal production occupies a key position. It creates the essential prerequisites for a continual increase in agricultural production as well as a permanent decrease of specific expenditure of labor.

In characterizing actual scientific-technical progress, international discussions for some time now have used the term "biologization" of the social reproduction process, which means that the results of the biological sciences must increasingly be applied to economic practice and must be utilized to ensure the growth of production and effectiveness. (Footnote

5) (See L. Petruzela/I. Rubrik, "Die Ernaehrung der Perspektive der biologischen Revolution," POLITIKA EKONOMIE, No 7/1983, Czech) We consider it theoretically justified to use this concept specifically and generally to describe the basic direction of more intensive utilization of natural resources and conditions in agriculture, although it does not do justice to all the directions and tasks of increased utilization of the natural factor in this economic sector. Yet it does point up that, in the transition toward more comprehensive intensification of agricultural production, the utilization of biological insights and correlations becomes the logical starting point for accelerating scientific-technical progress in agriculture.

Obviously connected with this are the structural changes in the system of agricultural production forces which bring about, for example, the quantitative and qualitative parameters of the use of technology, agricultural chemicals, amelioration, and social work potential being primarily determined by the characteristics of the natural metabolic process. In this regard, increased utilization of biological findings does not imply foregoing the use of agricultural chemicals and modern soil techniques to increase production, but rather aims at a complex coordination of these intensification factors into a production process which, by its nature, is of a biological origin. It is, therefore, not a matter of replacing "chemicalization" and mechanization through increased utilization of biological knowledge, as the romanticizing and unrealistic theory of "alternative agriculture" contends, but rather one of increasing the effectiveness of chemicalization and mechanization through stronger direction toward promoting the natural metabolic processes. In this sense, this development trend of intensifying agricultural production reflects a general tendency of scientific-technical progress, namely the transition from a relatively isolated use of findings of individual sciences to their complex application. In assessing the Hegelian scientific system, Engels already pointed to the special place of biology within the system of natural and technical sciences. In the context of classifying sciences, he stressed that "the organism...(is), however, the higher unit, which within itself combines mechanics, physics and chemistry into a whole, where the triad can no longer be separated." (Footnote 6) (K. Marx/F. Engels, op. cit., Vol 20, p 515)

The productive use of knowledge about living nature is not a new element of developing the productive force in agriculture. But evidently, the accumulation of partial findings of biology, working together with findings in chemistry, the technical and social sciences, only in the last third of our century has reached a level "at which remarkable successes can be recorded in the complex recognition of the development and change of living matter, and thus the nature of organic life comprising many components." (Footnote 7) (L. Petruzela/I. Rubrik, op. cit., p 3. Italics by K.A./U.N.)

The major cause for structural changes in the system of agricultural productive forces, particularly the increased importance of utilization of findings of the biological sciences in the comprehensive intensification

of agricultural production, is the exhaustion of the production and effectiveness potentials of present technologies, which were primarily directed toward savings in labor and soil resources per unit of agricultural product. Although, as is the case in comprehensive intensification of agricultural production, expenditures of material labor per production unit must be reduced, which means that simple compensation for human labor through material labor is impossible, in every increase of production and effectiveness natural forces and services, i.e. natural performance, are utilized to a greater degree. This process at first seems to be a substitution of labor through natural forces. Based on the remark by Marx that nature and labor are the two sources of social wealth (Footnote 8) (See K.Marx/F. Engels, op. cit., Vol 19, p 15), such an observation is quite justified. The savings in socially necessary work time per production unit are balanced by greater utilization of natural growth sources. More natural forces are utilized in order "to transform more inorganic matter into organic matter" with the same amount of labor. (Footnote 9) (Ibid., Vol 26.1, p 21) This correlation, i.e., reduction of specific expenditure through inclusion of a greater amount of natural forces in the production process, can be seen in the utilization of the period of vegetation, for example.

Table 1 Correlation Between Period of Growth and Yield in the Case of Sugar Beets

| Date of sowing | 4/1 | 4/15 | 4/30 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|------|------|
| Growth period (days) | 185 | 170 | 155 |
| Yield (quintals/ha) | 445 | 400 | 330 |
| Yield on 4/1 = 100 percent | 100 | 90 | 74 |
| Yield of white sugar (quintal/ha) | 88 | 75 | 61 |
| Yield of white sugar on 4/1 = 100 % | 100 | 90 | 74 |

Source: Agra 1984

Table 1 shows that the length of the vegetation period and yields are in direct proportion to each other. Shortening the period of vegetation means a lower yield. Seeding on the date of 30 April, only 74 percent is attained of the yield that would have been possible with a sowing date of 1 April. If no additional expenditure in labor is necessary for prolonging the vegetation period, i.e., if the same amount of labor is expended on all sowing dates, then the specific expenditure drops proportionately with the increase in yield and the extension of the vegetation period, respectively. However, in practice this is an exception to the rule. Extending the vegetation period as a rule requires greater technical impact, which means an increase in the expenditure of fixed assets. For this reason, specific expenditure in lengthening the growing period generally does not drop proportionately with the yield increase, but by degression.

However, the substitution of nature and labor as sources of social wealth, determined by the development of production force, must be separated from

the socially relevant side of this problem. From the socio-economic view, labor and nature cannot be substituted. In this context they constitute two different qualities not commensurable as such. All attempts to transfer directly to social processes the findings of natural and technical sciences, for example in the form of energy balance sheets, are incompatible with the materialist-dialectic method. In his dispute with Bogdanov, Mach and Avenarius, Lenin characterized such attempts as phrasemongering without substance, because it is impossible with the help of an energy balance sheet and biological correlations "to carry out a study of social phenomena and to clarify the method of social sciences." (Footnote 10) (W.I. Lenin, "Werke," Dietz Publishing Company, Berlin 1955 to 1965, Vol 14, p 332) Social forms of work are the general basis for the study of economic processes. While work under our conditions always assumes a socio-economic form, conditions of nature are not subject to that process. This also means that natural resources and conditions can advance or hinder the social development process, but can never assume the form of production relations. Although they are utilized by man, agricultural cultivation areas and sunlight do not become production relations. Production relations are always social forms of work. Without this point of reference, the category "production relations" would lose its essential meaning.

Lenin's fundamental remark on the relationship of work and labor has not lost its topicality in this context. In answer to the question whether the forces of nature could ever be substituted by labor, Lenin wrote: "Replacing forces of nature by human labor is, generally speaking, as impossible as replacing inches by hundredweights. If man recognizes the workings of natural forces, he can utilize them in industry as well as agriculture and make their use easier through machines and tools." (Footnote 11) (Ibid., Vol 5, p 105) This thought by Lenin contains two insights important for the theoretical analysis of the relations of both sources of growth:

1. Nature and work constitute a dialectic unit, i.e., they postulate each other and exclude each other within certain limits. Within the framework and limits of the agricultural reproduction process, they are qualitatively different and incommensurable as a socio-economic category.

2. Natural resources and conditions can be utilized ever more intensively with the help of machines, agricultural chemicals, etc., i.e. through practical application of scientific-technical progress.

Intensive utilization of the natural factor, with regard to the work it entails, is primarily a qualitative development process. It differs from an extensive expansion of utilization of natural resources above all by the fact that, per unit of end product, more complicated work, i.e. more simple work, must be expended. The relative decrease in work expenditure (with regard to product unit) thus made possible is basically due to tapping new--and free--natural productive forces. Properties of nature, not utilized or not completely utilized so far, are made production effective and are subject to productive appropriation through labor. The lowering of necessary social work through more intensive utilization of natural forces

can be interpreted as a substitution process only in the sense of natural sciences. From the viewpoint of society, no substitution of labor through natural forces occurs. It cannot occur, because both elements of the agricultural reproduction process cannot be substituted due to their different socio-economic nature. One can only substitute one natural resource for another, or one form of work for another. In a socio-economic sense, comprehensive intensification of agriculture does not replace labor with natural growth sources, but only one form of work with another, i.e., a simple form with a more complicated one. From the viewpoint of society, source substitution proves to be primarily a development process of the qualitative level of society's work.

For some time now, the socio-economic relationship between nature and labor has also been the subject of ideological class struggle. In this context, bourgeois Marxologists are trying to prove at present that Marx "based criticism of political economy on only one pillar, namely on the criticism of mystification of the productive force of labor with all its consequences. He warned urgently against seeing nature ...as the other side." (Footnote 12) (H.Himmler/W.-D. Schied-Kowarzik, "Marx und die Naturfrage," Hamburg 1984, p 26) The untenability of such a Marx-"Critique" becomes evident already on the first pages of "Das Kapital." Marx stresses even then that man in "his production (can) only proceed as nature itself does, i.e., only changing the forms of matter. And even more. In this work of formation he is constantly supported by natural forces." (Footnote 13) (K.Marx/F.Engels, op. cit., Vol 23, p 57 f) The workings of nature as a productive force, as a "pillar" of the production process, as a source of wealth, was at no time disputed by Marx. It is an integral part of his theory. And as to the side of his theory critical of society, Marx was quite aware that capitalist production conditions in the last analysis destroy both sources of society's wealth. "Capitalist production, therefore, only develops the technique and combination of society's production process, at the same time undermining the wellsprings of all wealth: the earth and the worker." (Footnote 14) (Ibid., p 529f)

What Marx always disputed, and rightly so, is acknowledging nature as a value-forming force. In his opinion, the characteristic of value formation can only be attributed to the force of labor. Even today, we consider consistent rejection of the value-forming potential of nature as the key, and not the problem, to solving all practical questions of establishing a rational relationship between society and nature. Negating nature as a value-forming force does not characterize a supposed "dilemma of Marxist political economy with nature" (Footnote 15) (H.Himmler/W.-D. Schied-Kowarzik, op. cit., p 83), but points to labor as society's basis of any production process. In this respect it is, and remains, the decisive methodological starting point for understanding all socially relevant aspects of the relationship between man and nature.

In the transition of agriculture to comprehensive intensification, in connection with better utilization of the natural factor, particularly the following four directions of the qualitative development of social work are of importance:

1. Yield and performance potentials of agriculturally utilized natural resources must be fully used and gradually expanded through greater transfer of achievements of technical-scientific progress into production.
2. The free services of nature must be tapped to a greater extent in order to further improve the ratio of expenditure and result.
3. The intensification of agricultural production must contribute to continuing stabilization of the agricultural economic systems in order to further limit decreases in yields and performance due to a disproportionate development of elements of the natural factor.
4. From the aspect of long-term and effective utilization of the natural factor in agriculture, growing importance must be given to environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources utilized in agriculture.

These development directions of society's work express short-term as well as long-term requirements of the intensively expanded reproduction of natural growth sources in agricultural production. Because of the multiple use of many natural resources, they are also an essential part of the reproduction of the natural sources of human life.

Free Services of Nature and Their Effects in the Agricultural Production Process

By utilizing the natural factor in the agricultural production process, man transforms natural forces into free natural productive forces of labor. It is of special importance that these natural forces are gratis to society and can be "incorporated, with greater or lesser effectiveness," in the agricultural production process. (Footnote 16) (K.Marx/F.Engels, op. cit., Vol 24, p 356)

The basis of this transformation is the fact that nature provides free services in the production process, i.e., carries out certain functions for man in the production of foodstuffs and raw materials as well as in the reproduction of the environment. This makes it an important growth and effectiveness factor in agricultural production.

In answering the question, to what circumstance a manufacturer owes his surplus profit by utilizing a waterfall, Marx writes: "In the first place, to a natural force, the driving force of the waterfall, which occurs naturally...It is a natural production agent, the creation of which needs no labor." (Footnote 17) (Ibid., Vol 25, p 656) Besides the free natural services, in every social production process other forces become effective, which Marx calls "social natural forces of labor, which spring from cooperation, separation, etc." (Footnote 18) (Ibid.) These free services are the result of social division of labor; thus they are forces which spring from the organization of society's production. In this they differ from the gratis services of nature which are tied directly to the uti-

lization of natural potentials. Marx demonstrates the effect of the free services of nature in the agricultural production process with the example of soil fertility. He shows that the free services of nature have the capability of producing substances for human nourishment only in cooperation with labor. "It will, therefore, depend in part on the chemical, in part on the mechanical development of agriculture in how far on naturally equally fertile areas the same natural fertility can be made available." (Footnote 19) (Ibid., p 664) If one considers the agricultural ecological system of soil and plant, then the following gratis services are of special importance to society:

- the capability of making plant growth possible;
- the buffer and filter effect, and biological decomposition and water balance functions;
- the performances of this system influencing climate;
- its esthetic and cultivating accomplishments.

The altered importance of the natural factor in the transition to comprehensive intensification of agricultural production results primarily from the characteristic of the natural free services as a gratis source of growth and effectiveness. A more intensive utilization of the natural factor results in making more free services production effective, thereby improving the ratio of expenditure and yield. These effects refer to savings in expenditure--for instance, if the use of mineral fertilizers is reduced, or if nitrogen levels in the soil are increased through cultivation of leguminous plants--as well as to attaining an additional product--for example through regulating the water balance of ameliorated areas.

Comprehensive intensification is characterized by higher economic effectiveness of all production resources, including natural resources. Intensive utilization of natural resources is expressed in particular by achieving higher material production and net product per resource unit with stable or decreasing expenditure in labor. This requires better utilization, or expanding the use, of the natural resources immanent in the soil, cultivated plants and useful animals and to thus increase the amount of gratis services of nature included in the agricultural production process.

A further component of intensive utilization of the natural factor is increasing the effectiveness of natural conditions. The effectiveness of agricultural production can be significantly increased if the producer better adjusts technical means, technology and the organization of production to the conditions of nature, utilizes location conditions for maximal material production on the basis of scientific findings, and is prepared in advance to adapt to changes in the weather. Great demands are placed on the flexibility of the agricultural production process by the workings of natural and particularly biological processes, by taking into account differing geographical conditions, and the random influences of weather. The complete as possible use of the production possibilities requires therefore, on the one hand, a comprehensive mastery of natural and economic processes by cooperative farmers and workers and, on the other hand, cer-

tain expenditures are necessary to ensure a stable and increasing agricultural production. This additional expenditure of human and material work is necessary to make available more free services of nature. This creates essential preconditions for a more intensive utilization of the natural factor and, simultaneously, for making all available resources yield a higher economic effect.

More free services can be developed in the agricultural production process even without significant additional work expenditure. In essence, this means tapping production and effectiveness potentials which are not being used at the present scientific-technical production level. Of special importance in this context is making use of the experience of experts, high field cultivation, and carrying out high-quality field work on schedule.

As a rule, development of unused natural potentials, preservation of free services, and purposeful expansion of the economic effects in the intensification process require a growing expenditure of labor. In particular, by increasing the complicatedness of work and the initial outlay of funds, further free services of nature are tapped and made productive. The additional expenditure for utilization of new gratis services of nature can be divided into

- development expenditure, particularly for scientific-technical performances, their materialization and broad application, in order to utilize more comprehensively the natural potentials. In agriculture, relatively high expenditures are needed to adapt scientific-technical innovations to the different natural and economic conditions of the LPGs, VEGs, and co-operative installations;

- preservation and expansion expenditure required to achieve the effects of the natural factor and certain functions in the agricultural reproduction process, to make them stable and permanent, and to expand them;

- expenditure for indirect utilization of the free services of nature in the manufacturing process of plant and animal products.

In the words of Roos and Streibel, this total expenditure is called the reproduction expenditure of the natural factor, which includes expenditures for increased performance capabilities of natural resources and the productiveness of natural conditions, as well as expenditure for the preservation of the natural functions of the agricultural ecological systems. (Footnote 20) (Compare H. Roos/G. Streibel, "Umweltgestaltung und Oekonomie der Naturressourcen, Publishing Company Die Wirtschaft, Berlin 1979, p 104 ff)

As a rule, this reproduction cost as a complex type of expenditure cannot be divided because the economic, ecological and cultivating effects of the utilization of the natural factors are difficult to measure in terms of quantity. For example, in agriculture the expenditure for the protection and planned development of the environment does not appear fully in the value or useful value of the product. In this regard the performance achieved by agriculture for the social reproduction process as a whole is not assessed in its economic value. This poses special tasks for economic

research. Within the framework of studies on the economic assessment of natural resources, theoretical bases must be established in order to include the effects of agriculture, not evaluated so far, in the current account of this branch of the national economy. This is an important prerequisite in order to involve even more strongly the LPGs, VEGs and cooperative installations in carrying out measures for the protection and planned development of the environment.

An improvement in the ratio of expenditure and result can only be attained if the natural factor is mastered by cooperative farmers and workers; that is to say, that the free services are recognized, their effectiveness preserved, and the natural factor used purposefully. The major road to that is scientific-technical progress and broad application of its findings for a more intensive utilization of the natural factor. If the functions carried out by the agricultural ecological systems are interfered with or eliminated, then additional social expenditures become necessary, or important social needs can no longer be satisfied.

Using the findings of science and technology is directed at increasing the yield potential of the soil, plants and animals as well as perfecting the other elements of the material-technical basis, in order to increase the productiveness of the natural factor. This requires that the material-technical basis of agriculture be developed in its structure and performance capability, as well as in the adaptability of its elements to nature in such a way that optimal conditions for intensive utilization of the natural factor are ensured. This requires even closer cooperation between science and production in order to ensure the necessary scientific-technical preparation, and to achieve higher results, rapidly applied in the economy, from scientific work.

In this context, research into soil fertility is of special importance. To increase soil productiveness, the research potential must primarily be concentrated on tasks achieving higher economic effects through improving the utilitarian characteristics of the soil, greater use of its yield potential, and lowering the expenditure of energy, material and work time. This concerns in particular new basic solutions to ensure reproduction of organic matter, better penetration of material conversion processes in the soil, development of soil-preserving procedures, and development of biocatalysts for better water use.

The development of complex procedures to increase soil fertility and yields proved particularly effective. Within the framework of production experiments spanning several years, this process achieved greater annual yields of an average of 9 quintals of grain, 36 quintals of potatoes, and 53 quintals of sugar beets per hectare.

Breeding is of great importance for increasing the yield and performance potential of plants. Through faster use of new genetic, molecular-biological, physiological, biochemical and biophysical findings conditions are created in order to better utilize in the production process solar radiation, nutrients and water. This holds true especially for pointed meas-

ures to contribute to higher yields through increasing the genetic potential of plants. The search is for plant types adapted to the differing natural and economic production conditions and ensuring high utilization of the yield and performance potential with economically acceptable expenditures. More progress is sought, for example, in mobilizing nutrients presently not available for plant growth, particularly through types more effectively utilizing the fertility of light soils. Plant breeders are attempting to expand the range of types of grain, corn, sugar beets, potatoes, fruit, vegetables and feed plants according to the varying cultivation and production conditions in the GDR. A greater selection of types with different maturing times, different genetic resistance basis and differentiated requirements for nutrients make it possible for agricultural enterprises to further lower the difference between the genetic yield potential and the actual crop level. With the new admittance of 36 types of agricultural plants and 21 types of vegetable cultures during the period 1981 to 1983, the breeder collectives have performed a remarkable job.

Progress in breeding is an essential prerequisite for the intensive utilization of the natural factor. It simultaneously effects increases in both yield and effectiveness by including more natural forces in the agricultural production process. In economic terms it shows improvement in the ratio of expenditure for new breeding to higher yield achieved in production. (Footnote 21) (In the GDR, breeding a new type of grain costs over 4 million Marks, a type of potato more than 10 million Marks, and a type of sugar beet over 20 million Marks. [Compare "Hoher Leistungsanstieg in den LPG und VEG--Fuehrungsaufgabe der SED," Dietz Publishing Company, East Berlin 1984, p 39]) Evaluating long-term experiences, in grain breeding--depending on the individual grain type--it is possible to achieve expenditure-yield ratios of 1:5 up to 1:15. (Footnote 22) (See GETREIDEWIRTSCHAFT, No 5/6, 1983, p 109)

The higher the yield potential of types, the higher are the demands placed on the production process. This concerns in particular precise observance of agrotechnical dates, the quality of working the soil, differentiated nutrient supplies, and additional water requirements, respectively. These factors, which express mastery of the interrelationship between the work process and the natural process in plant production, most strongly influence materialization of breeding progress.

Better utilization of the yield potentials of soil, plants and animals is decisively influenced by effective results of basic research. In the future, increasing importance will be given to the findings of microbiology, genetics, biotechnology and the possibilities of steering biological processes, as well as to experience in using micro-electronics. Through the use of micro-electronics and computer technology as key technologies of scientific-technical progress, many possibilities result for better adaptation to the natural conditions of the soil and plants. In the agricultural production process, which is characterized by a high proportion of stochastic procedures, a great many data must be recorded and taken into consideration in the decision-making process. The great variety of factors influencing the biological process requires partial transfer of man's in-

tellectual functions to machines, for better mastery of the agricultural production process. Only through wide utilization of micro-electronics will it be possible in the future to combine factors influencing the agricultural process in such a way that maximum results are achieved under varying natural and economic production conditions.

In plant production, micro-electronics are used primarily for controlling the functions of mobile technology. Through massive use of micro-electronic components and extensive utilization of data-processing technology, a new generation of control and regulation of agricultural work processes can be realized, particularly process steering, stock control, and securing of optimal soil condition.

Wide application of micro-electronics will bring about higher work productivity and lower specific expenditure in production procedures at present not yet automated or mechanized. It will be possible to a much larger extent to adapt technology to the soil, plants and animals, and to correspond to different natural conditions. In this way, utilization of micro-electronics contributes to the more effective use of the natural factor.

Free Services of the Soil

Soil constitutes the major element of the natural factor. Its immanent potential, and the free services of nature affecting it, determine essentially its central position in the intensification process of agriculture. Biological mass production is decisively influenced by the constant renewal and expanded reproduction of its basic capability to store nutrients, water and heat and to transmit it to plant growth, to decompose organic substances, and to lower detrimental effects.

As a partial ecological system, soil holds a key position in the material and energy balance of human environment. It serves primarily the production of foodstuffs, but also the maintenance of the natural material cycle, formation of ground water, water purification and waste removal. For this reason, the SED concentrates to a greater degree on further developing a responsible attitude toward the soil as the food basis of our people and as the main production means of agriculture. (Footnote23) (Compare W. Felfe, "Wissenschaft und beste Erfahrungen entscheidend fuer den Ertragszuwachs," NEUES DEUTSCHLAND of 10 January 1985, p 3)

Soil resources--one of the most important natural riches of our people--, if properly handled, are an inexhaustible source for an increasing biological plant mass production and value formation. The performance development of the entire sector, and thus agriculture's contribution to national economic growth, depends above all on the effectiveness of soil utilization. The core and hub is the productiveness of the soil, thereby ensuring growing and stable yields in plant production and a high performance level in livestock production with growing self-supply of fodder. "The productivity of the soil can be increased infinitely through the use of capital, labor and science." (Footnote 24) (K.Marx/F. Engels, op. cit., Vol 1, p 517)

With a 55 percent share of the total area of the GDR, and 95 percent of agricultural land, socialist agricultural enterprises work by far the largest part of soil resources suitable for plant production. Thereby the cooperative farmers and workers of socialist agriculture also carry the major responsibility for the effective use of soil. This fact, however, does not relieve the other sectors of the national economy from the task of making their own contribution to the conservation of soil resources and expanded reproduction of its fertility. At the present interlocking stage of the agricultural reproduction process, soil utilization is primarily, but no longer exclusively, the affair of agriculture. For example, industry also bears a share of the reproduction of soil resources by providing better production means, reduced demand for agricultural land, and keeping air and water resources clean. At present, about 55 percent of one-time and current expenditures of LPGs and VEGs are tied to prior work in which industry has a large share through the supply of production means.

Agriculture concentrates on efficient use of the available land resources, full utilization of the yield potential of this resource, and a gradual increase thereof. (Footnote 25) (K.Marx/F.Engels, "Werke," op. cit., Vol 1, p 517) At the center of full utilization of the soil's yield potential stands its direct production-effective function. The major part of the biological mass will continue to be produced on open soil, although biotechnical procedures make possible an industrial protein production without the use of soil. The special position of soil as the major production means of agriculture results in the requirement that all areas suitable for agricultural production be utilized effectively.

Opinions, sometime heard in discussions, that an improvement of the ratio between expenditure and yield in plant production could be achieved by gradually retiring some pieces of land that are of poor quality or hard to work, do not conform to social conditions of land use in the GDR. Utilization of all land suitable for agricultural production is primarily necessary for the quantitative and qualitative development of foodstuff production, even if the supply level in important foodstuffs apparently is approaching a saturation point. But to an increasing degree, changes in structure and higher quality of foodstuffs must be taken into consideration which, as a rule, also lead to changes in soil utilization. For example, in order to realize the planned measures for developing fruit and vegetable production to ensure a better supply for the people from our own production, an expansion of arable land for these cultures becomes necessary. The goal of producing a large part of the supply of basic foodstuffs on our land, also results in a growing need for land and more intensive soil utilization.

The extensive reduction or stoppage of imports of agricultural goods has a varying effect on the amount of socially necessary expenditure and the use of land. Particularly for protein fodder, vegetables and special cultures, a greater expenditure of labor and more area is required. One must also take into account the GDR's contribution to the solution of the global food supply problem. In view of the hunger and malnutrition in many devel-

oping countries, it is only logical that the socialist countries adjust in a relatively short time to becoming self-sufficient in the supply of food-stuffs through more intensive land use, and to expand their possibilities to support the young national states.

Lastly, we need increased agricultural production in the entire area in order to fill the growing need of industry for agricultural raw materials. This concerns conventional uses as well as the development of new ways of using raw materials, for example for energy production from biogenic raw materials.

More effective use of the soil and lowering the loss of arable land has become a global problem, both from the aspects of alimentation and environmental protection. The causes of danger to useful soil resources are primarily due to degradation and destruction of the fertile soil layer through erosion, losses of agricultural and forest land to industry, mining and other sectors, and soil stress due to the influence of harmful substances. Annually, 5 to 7 million hectares of land are lost in the world by turning into deserts or steppes. Much damage also occurs through the salination of huge areas. (Footnote 26) (See W.Sagladin/I.Frolow, "Globale Probleme der Gegenwart," Dietz Publishing Company, East Berlin 1982, p 160)

Especially aggravating is the soil destruction in tropical and subtropical regions through land clearing by burning. Between 1945 and 1975, 11 million square kilometers of forest were destroyed, of which only 4 million square kilometers can be used agriculturally. (Footnote 27) (See "Oekonomie und Oekologie der Naturnutzung," Gustav-Fischer Verlag Jena 1984, p 20) In many West European countries the development of agriculturally useful land is strongly recessive. In the FRG, arable land decreased by 2.1 million hectares since 1960, i.e., by 15 percent. (Footnote 28) (Compare "Statistisches Jahrbuch der DDR 1984," p 66, and "Statistisches Jahrbuch der DDR 1962," p 35, both Staatsverlag der DDR, East Berlin) Only in the Netherlands is it possible to reclaim land in a limited amount through draining areas of water and thus to partially compensate for the drop in agricultural land. (Footnote 29) (Simultaneously with the development of a new agriculture, over 225 thousand hectares of land were gained at Lake IJssel by 1980) These examples illustrate the dimension of the problems of land use in the world, which above all are caused by the capitalist form of soil use. In the 1960's, socialist countries increasingly introduced legal and economic measures for the protection and efficient utilization of the soil. In their majority, these measures were aimed at introducing a land use fee and the use of sanctions in case of infringements of the planned use of agricultural land. In the 1970's and 1980's, economic and ecological aspects were taken into account to a greater extent in control and planning of soil utilization. At present, many countries are examining how to better respond to the demands of more effective soil utilization in the transition of the economy to intensively expanded reproduction. Above all is being considered how economic pressure can be increased for a more effective utilization of the natural factor in general, and of the soil in particular. This is necessary because in the socialist coun-

tries, also, new sources must be developed for intensive cultivation of the soil. A particularly urgent problem is to slow down the decrease in agricultural areas.

Table 2 Development of Agricultural Areas in European Socialist Countries

| | Agricultural Area (thousand hectares) | | | Quota of Area Used (hectare agricultural area per inhabitant) | | |
|----------|--|---------|------------|---|------|------|
| | 1960 | 1982 | Difference | 1960 | 1982 | Drop |
| Bulgaria | 5.672 | 6.182 | + 510 | 0.72 | 0.69 | 0.03 |
| GDR | 6.440 | 6.258 | - 182 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.01 |
| Poland | 20.403 | 18.892 | - 1.511 | 0.69 | 0.52 | 0.17 |
| Romania | 14.547 | 14.964 | + 417 | 0.79 | 0.67 | 0.12 |
| CSSR | 7.327 | 6.840 | - 487 | 0.54 | 0.45 | 0.09 |
| USSR | 515.400 | 556.268 | +40.868 | 2.40 | 2.06 | 0.34 |
| Hungary | 7.141 | 6.582 | - 559 | 0.71 | 0.61 | 0.10 |

Sources: Statistisches Jahrbuch der DDR 1984, p 66, computations on basis of p 3; Statistisches Jahrbuch der DDR 1962, p 35, computations on basis of p 3; Statistisches Jahrbuch der DDR 1960/61, p 3; all published by Staatsverlag der DDR, East Berlin.

Table 2 indicates that in the USSR, for example, with an increase in land resources, the agricultural area per inhabitant decreased since 1960 from 2.4 hectares to 2.06 hectares, i.e., by 0.34 hectares. During the same period, the agricultural area in the CSSR dropped by 487,000 hectares, while the forest area increased by 210,000 hectares. Similar tendencies with regard to a decrease in the agricultural area and stronger reforestation also appear in the People's Republic of Poland.

Effective soil utilization is a fundamental question of intensification of agriculture for the GDR, since a decrease in arable area under our circumstances--as is generally known, we have only 0.37 hectares of agricultural area per inhabitant--influences directly the speed of growth of agricultural production. Since 1960, the agricultural area dropped by 182,000 hectares, whereby the annual land decrease slowed down in recent years. (Footnote 30) (Compare "Verordnung zum Schutz des land- und forstwirtschaftlichen Bodens und zur Sicherung der sozialistischen Bodennutzung" of 26 Feb 1981, GESETZBLATT DER DDR, Part I, No 10/1981) The withdrawal of every hectare of agricultural land reduces or stops the free services of nature. If one assesses the arable land decrease in the GDR since 1960 as requiring a one-time expenditure of 15,000 Marks per hectare necessary for recultivation, that means on the average an extra annual expenditure of social labor in the amount of about 2.7 billion Marks, due to the losses of the free services of nature. At the present intensification level of plant production, an annual additional production of 0.7 to 0.8 million

tons of grain units could be realized from these areas. This would correspond approximately to a 3 percent increase in the supply of foodstuffs.

In the future, also, a limited reduction in arable land is unavoidable due to the construction of housing, industry and roads, and the increased utilization of domestic raw materials. Through the accelerated development of brown coal deposits, land reduction due to mining operations will continue, particularly in the second half of the 1980's and the first half of the 1990's. At present, recultivation cannot compensate for agricultural land loss either quantitatively or qualitatively. About 40 percent of the annual decrease in land is being returned to agriculture at this time. One must also take into account that the recultivation phase takes from 12 to 20 years, that the cost of recultivation rises steadily, and that frequently, the original productiveness of the soil cannot be regained. This is especially true of the soils in the Cottbus region. In the interest of preserving the free services of these soils, efforts to achieve high dumping substratum qualities should be increased.

Kreis Borna is one example of the high quality of recultivation areas and their effective use. The eight plant production enterprises of the kreis work about 19,300 hectares, among them about one-fourth of arable land returned by mining operations, which increases annually by about 200 hectares. Together with the joint "recultivation" establishment, areas are again made arable, and with correct tillage, fertilization, appropriate selection of plant types, crop rotation and irrigation, they produce good crops. After some difficulties in the beginning, high yields were achieved in 1983 with 50 quintals of grain and 308 quintals of sugar beets per hectare.

Basic Direction of Increasing the Yield Potential of the Soil

In the further intensification of soil use, one can assume that the present distribution of useful plants on GDR land as an almost stable reproduction basis will be maintained in the 1980's and 1990's. But several factors must be taken into consideration which characterize the new quality of intensification of agriculture with regard to soil utilization:

1. It is a matter of carrying out even more comprehensively the principles of efficient use, conservation and protection of the soil. This requires a flexible combination of effective soil utilization and soil protection in order to use soil resources efficiently and to avoid utilization conflicts. Land use for purposes which do not directly serve the production of biogenic matter must be reduced to a minimum, and is to be limited primarily to soils of low fertility.

2. All land suitable for agricultural production within and outside the soil resources of socialist agriculture must be developed. More effective use of the soil also includes agricultural working of small areas, in order to make intensive use of small and fragmented areas with economically justifiable expenditure. In addition, agricultural engineering is necessary in order to work locations close to ground water, steep areas and

soil with high rock content. This requires greater variability in all phases of the cycle science-technology-production, i.e., in finding scientific-technical solutions, their materialization and broad transfer into agricultural production.

3. Agriculture must increasingly take into consideration multiple use of the land. Intensification of land use and maintenance, or gradual expansion, respectively, of protective functions are mutually interdependent. Of particular urgency is the expansion of protected areas for potable water which, just as the protection of nature areas, creates extensive restrictions for the intensification of agriculture.

4. More intensive soil utilization requires further perfecting the socialist production conditions in rural areas. A deepening of cooperative relations, raising the organizational standards of production, stabilizing cultivation and enterprise structures including gradual implementation of the territorial principle, all contribute to more effective soil utilization.

At the center of increased and better use of the yield potential of soil stands expanded reproduction of soil fertility, since it has a decisive influence on the effectiveness of all free services of nature in plant production.

On the preservation and increase of soil fertility, as well as its purposeful utilization through high standards of field cultivation, depend numerous combination effects for a higher plant yield and the lowering of expenditure in agricultural production. This requires the efficient use of material resources on the basis of modern science and technology. "The masterfulness of the farmer shows itself in that everything that he invests in labor, fertilizers and energy in working the soil pays off in faster growing yields." (Footnote 31) (E. Honecker, "Arbeit und Bauern Hand in Hand fuer Sozialismus und Frieden," "XII. Bauernkongress der DDR, Protokolle," Staatsverlag der DDR, East Berlin 1982, p 284)

In recent years, progress has been achieved in the reproduction of soil fertility which must be further developed. In this, greater feeding of the soil with organic substances holds a key position. In 1982, the humus balance of the GDR still showed a lack of 4.2 quintals of reproduction-effective organic substance per hectare, while in 1984 it was only 2.8 quintals. At present, the humus requirement of arable land is 87 percent fulfilled, although there are great local differences. The crop results of 1984 again confirm that the highest yields and lowest fluctuations in yields were achieved in LPG and VEGs with balanced humus level. In the Leipzig bezirk, for example, the LPG Knobelsdorf (kreis Schmoelln) with 370 quintals of sugar beets achieved 100 quintals more per hectare than the LPG Knobelsdorf (kreis Doebeln) which operates under approximately the same natural production conditions. The sugar beet, a very demanding crop, reacts strongly to deficiencies in tillage, cultivation, care and humus supply. It is estimated that the effect of scientific crop rotation and

use of measures promoting soil fertility will, in the long term, amount to a yield increase of 50 quintals per hectare.

In order to ensure the supply tasks of agriculture, plant production in the future must reach an average level of at least 50 grain units per hectare of arable land, and in regions with favorable natural and economic production conditions, approximately 60 grain units per hectare. (Footnote 32) (Compare H. Schieck/G. Schmidt, "Die Verwirklichung der oekonomischen Strategie in der Landwirtschaft erfordert die Intensivierung in neuer Qualitaet," KOOPERATION, No 1/1985, p 4) To achieve this, new dimensions in the increase of soil fertility are needed. At the core are fertilization of the soil with organic substances, implementation of scientifically justified crop rotations, cultivation of leguminous plants, adding underseed and stubble seed, fertilization with straw, the supply and efficient use of stable manure, liquid manure and compost, as well as tapping other organic fertilizers.

Increasing soil productiveness also requires more intensive utilization of water resources, particularly the higher effectiveness of amelioration installations. Of about 6.5 million hectares of agricultural area in the GDR, approximately 5.7 million hectares need either irrigation or draining. At present, over 1 million hectares can be irrigated and about 2 million hectares can be drained.

The yield-increasing effect of ameliorated land, properly coordinated with other measures promoting soil fertility, is considerable. In recent years in the GDR, irrigated land produced on the average about 25 percent higher yields. For this reason it is planned to greatly expand the size of irrigated agricultural areas by simple means, and to better utilize existing amelioration installations. (Footnote 33) (Within the framework of the 1983 program for the utilization of all possibilities of irrigation, more than 300,000 hectares of agricultural land were newly developed or reconstructed for irrigation last year. It is planned to create 250,000 additional hectares of irrigated area by the time of the 11th SED Party Congress.)

Measures to promote soil fertility require a certain degree of higher expenditure per land unit.

Kundler points out that resource-economical intensification with regard to efficient soil use and increased soil fertility means to increase yields on a stable basis with the available soil resources, available labor force, and with the planned production means. (Footnote 34) (Compare P.Kundler, "Effektive Nutzung des Bodens und Erhoehung seiner Fruchtbarkeit unter fondssparenden Bedingungen," KOOPERATION, No 1/1985, p 7) The goal is to possibly lower the specific expenditure per grain unit on the total area, particularly to save human labor, soil, water and material. This aim cannot be realized in all locations and for all types of expenditure. The reason can be found in the specific character of more intensified utilization of the natural factor: developing and making available new gratis services of the soil require additional expenditure in labor. Therefore,

as a second variant for increasing soil fertility, a stable or increased expenditure per product must be considered. It may possibly bring about greater effects, because more favorable preconditions are being created for the transition of the entire sector to a new quality of intensification.

More effective soil utilization also includes the preservation and gradual expansion of its ecological functions. Scientific-technical progress makes it possible to a larger extent to apply new production procedures or to change existing technologies, respectively, in order to create an agricultural production both intensive and friendly to the environment. One way consists in reducing the extent of necessary interference in the natural balance to an economically and ecologically acceptable degree. The other way aims at utilizing as effectively as possible the material balance in agriculture, and to hold down unproductive losses.

There exist mutual correlations between the intensification of agricultural production and environmental protection. Thus the new quality of intensification also includes measures for soil protection. That creates favorable preconditions so that the LPGs, VEGs and cooperative establishments can continue to utilize intensively the natural bases of their production.

The economic development of agriculture in our republic shows that the more intensive use of the natural factor can contribute significantly to an increase in production and its effectiveness. It stresses the strategic character of the fundamental principles of an intensive utilization of nature, as it was formulated at the 12th Congress of Farmers of the GDR: "Modern science and technology, the socialist forms of work organization, the use of appropriate management methods put cooperative farmers more and more in a position to better utilize natural processes. The farmer will certainly never become independent of nature, but he can control it to a large extent." (Footnote 35) (E. Honecker, "Arbeiter und Bauern Hand in Hand...", op. cit., p 285)

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ECONOMY

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

USSR, BULGARIA SIGN AGREEMENT ON GAS PROJECTS

AU211313 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 20 Mar 86 pp 1, 5

[Article by RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent Atanas Atanasov: "The 'Progress' Integrated Project"]

[Text] Moscow, 19 Mar--Today a governmental agreement was signed between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Soviet Union for cooperation in the bringing on stream of the Yamburg gas field, in the construction of the "Yamburg--USSR western border" main gas pipeline and other projects of the Soviet gas industry, and for deliveries of natural gas from the USSR to Bulgaria.

This exceptionally important document was signed by the following: on the Bulgarian side, by Andrey Lukanov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; and on the Soviet side, by Nikolay Komarov, first deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Trade; Viktor Chernomirdin, minister of the gas industry; and Vladimir Chirskov, minister of construction of petroleum and gas industry enterprises.

The agreement concretely defines the cooperation between our countries in the implementation of this integration project of primary importance. The Bulgarian side will carry out various forms of construction and installation works and deliver machines, equipment, and other goods equal in value for the construction of a 710-kilometer section of the "Progress" pipeline and six compressor stations. In other words, the thousands of our fellow countrymen who will come to the Soviet Union to make their contribution in the realization of the project will work primarily on projects in other regions of the country. For example, they will construct one of the branches of the gas pipeline, 400 kilometers long, using pipes delivered from Bulgaria, and will take part in the construction of six compressor stations.

In this way, the People's Republic of Bulgaria [PRB] will ensure for itself deliveries of natural gas over a 20-year period. The first quantities of the blue fuel will start to flow from Yamburg to the PRB when the gas pipeline is completed in 1989, while regular annual deliveries of 3.75 billion cubic meters will commence from 1992.

"In the basic directions for the socioeconomic development of the USSR during the present 5-year plan period and until the year 2000," Nikolay Komarov stated after the signing of the agreement, "the construction of the gas pipeline and the bringing on stream of the Yamburg field are among the priority investments of the Soviet Union. The PRB will also play its part in this great cause, together with other European socialist countries. The agreement we have just signed is an important step in the fulfillment of the decisions of the Moscow summit economic conference of the CEMA member states and of the accords achieved during the meetings and conversations of Comrades Mikhail Gorbachev and Todor Zhivkov. We are convinced that the joint work in this unique initiative too will be crowned with success, in the interest of the accelerated upsurge of both countries."

"It may be difficult to assess the importance of this agreement for our country," added Comrade Andrey Lukanov in his turn. "In this way the PRB is guaranteeing for a long period secure deliveries from the USSR of one of the most valuable fuels, namely natural gas. Without doubt the bringing into production of the Yamburg field and the construction of the 'Progress' gas pipeline extends beyond the framework of our mutual economic relations. The implementation of the agreement assumes the presence of thousands of Bulgarian workers and specialists on a wide scale in the Soviet land, who, living and working jointly with Soviet people, will implement the common course toward comprehensive cooperation and drawing together between our parties, countries, and peoples. We on the Bulgarian side will do everything to fulfill our obligations, as required by the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the decisions which will be adopted by the forthcoming 13th BCP Congress."

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CSO: 2200/93

POLITICS

ALBANIA

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF FINNISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

Talks Held in Tirana

AU261527 Tirana ATA in English 0900 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Tirana, March 26 (ATA)--At the invitation of the Presidency of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, a parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Finland led by the chairman of the Commission of Financial Control of the parliament, Markus Aaltonen, arrived in our country on March 26.

Present to welcome the delegation at the airport were the member of the Plan-Budget Commission of the People's Assembly, Harilla Papajorgji; deputies to the People's Assembly, functionaries of the Presidium of the People's Assembly and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present was also the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to the PSR of Albania, Jussi Montonen.

On March 25 afternoon, talks were held at the seat of the Presidium of the People's Assembly between the delegation of the People's Assembly of the PSR of Albania, led by the member of the Plan-Budget Commission of the People's Assembly, Harilla Papajorgji, and the delegation of the parliament of the Republic of Finland, led by the chairman of the Commission of Financial Control of the parliament, Markus Aaltonen.

Present in the talks were also the chairman of the Commission of Education and Culture of the People's Assembly, Kristaq Rama; the deputies Bilal Parruca, Eva Budina and Viktor Gjika and others.

Present in the talks on the Finnish side were the vice-secretary of state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ulf-Erik Slotte, and others.

Present was also the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to the PSR of Albania Jussi Montonen.

During the talks which were conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere, evaluating the relations between the two countries both sides voiced the

desire and readiness to continuously strengthen them and to further the development of the cooperation between the People's Assembly of Albania and the Parliament of Finland. [sentence as received]

In honour of the parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Finland, the head of the delegation of the People's Assembly, Harilla Papajorgji, gave a dinner last night which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Marko Receives Delegation

AU271003 Tirana ATA in English 0900 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Tirana, March 27 (ATA)--The vice-president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the PSR of Albania Rita Marko, received on March 26 the parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Finland, led by the chairman of the Financial Control Commission of the parliament, Markus Aaltonen and held a warm and friendly talk with it.

Attending the reception were the member of the parliament Plan-Budget Commission of the People's Assembly Harilla Papajorgji and the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Sokrat Plaka.

Present was also the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to the PSR of Albania Jussi Montonen.

Delegation Departs

AU271007 Tirana ATA in English 0900 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Tirana, March 27 (ATA)--The parliamentary delegation of the Republic of Finland, led by the chairman of the Financial Control Commission of the parliament, Markus Aaltonen, which paid a visit to Albania at the invitation of the Presidency of the People's Assembly of the PSR of Albania, left our country on March 26.

Present to see off the Finnish friends were the member of the permanent Plan-Budget Commission of the People's Assembly Harilla Papajorgji, deputies to the People's Assembly, officials of the Presidium of the People's Assembly and of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present was also the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Finland to the PSR of Albania, Jussi Montonen.

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CSO: 2020/110

POLITICS

ALBANIA

AWP PAPER VIEWS 27TH CPSU CONGRESS, DEEPENING 'REVISIONISM'

AU111726 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 9 Mar 86 p 4

[Unattributed article: "Congress of the Continuation and Deepening of the Revisionist and Social Imperialist Course"]

[Text] The 27th CPSU Congress held its proceedings recently. The entire propaganda apparatus of the Soviet social imperialists, their followers, and their supporters has been totally mobilized to echo this event, publicizing it as the congress of fundamental changes and great prospects on the road of "developed socialism," of new horizons in avoiding the danger of war and in preserving peace, for international security and cooperation, and so forth.

An analysis of the congress and the facts prove that this demagoguery does not stand up. Like all previous congresses held since the Soviet revisionist leadership started implementing "Khrushchevism without Khrushchev," this congress also constitutes a new escalation in the continuation and deepening of the revisionist course of capitalist development within the country, and of the socialimperialist strategy in the field of international relations. All those who came to power in the Soviet Union after Khrushchev, being representatives of the interests of the same class, of the new bourgeoisie that is ruling there economically, politically, and ideologically, have remained loyal to the ideological platform and to the Khrushchevite revisionist political line in all cardinal matters. The political report delivered to the congress by Gorbachev and the new text of the party program approved by the congress are a lively testimony of this. Both these documents stress unambiguously the ideological and political continuation of that line, whose origins lie in the 20th and 22d CPSU Congresses which sanctioned and codified the revisionist and counterrevolutionary turning point in the Soviet Union.

The partial repair, patching up, and corrections of the CPSU program in its new version, by keeping the base of the former program totally intact, are intended merely to adapt it to the needs and current demands of capitalist and socialimperialist development in the Soviet Union. The authors of this document also intended to eliminate from the old text certain indiscreet and discrediting formulations which highlighted to an extreme degree its anti-Marxist nature and the falsity of the clamorous promise it made.

If critical allusions to Khrushchev are contained in the materials of the present congress and in its proceedings with regard to mistakes of a subjective and voluntaristic nature, or allusions to stagnation, immobilization, and bureaucratic routine with regard to Brezhnev, these are remarks which fall within the general revisionist course, a criticism of the fact that this course was not properly implemented. But they also constitute in particular an attempt to explain and to justify by means of these "mistakes" and "shortcomings" the severe defeats to which this revisionist course has led within the country and in the international arena, in the economic, political, ideological, and social fields. They are an attempt to show that those ugly phenomena which Gorbachev was forced to admit publicly, and which can no longer be covered up with the tactics of silence, are supposedly a result of these "correctible" mistakes and shortcomings instead of being an inevitable result of the capitalist-revisionist line and system being implemented in the Soviet Union.

Disaffection and disillusionment are becoming increasingly apparent within the Soviet Union. A picture of the economic, political, ideological, and spiritual crisis experienced in present-day Soviet society can be drawn from the media, from the statements uttered by the Soviet leaders themselves, including Gorbachev, and particularly from the congress materials. The congress failed to make a precise analysis of the causes of this situation, the economic stagnation, the domination of bureaucratic castes over the working masses, and the spiritual and moral degradation. As has become customary when there is a change of revisionist rulers in the Kremlin, critical allusions about their predecessors are not lacking, but this is never done on the basis of a principled analysis of the line pursued by them. Bureaucracy, outdated mentalities at work, the retraining of new methods, slowness in the introduction of new technologies, backwardness in the methods of the party and state organs--all these are some of the causes mentioned by Gorbachev at the congress. Everything, then, to justify the failures in the implementation of the line with the subjective mistakes of individuals in order to conceal what is fundamental, the cause of all causes, the counterrevolutionary revisionist platform of the Soviet party.

In this situation which is disquieting in itself, the leading Soviet elite is striving to do something and to find a way out. On the one hand, it is trying to calm the working masses and the people, to create new illusions among them; on the other hand, efforts are being made to formulate a concrete programme, pretending that the situation in the country, and particularly in the economy, will be changed rapidly. Everything is being done to create the impression that the Soviet Union is confronted with great changes.

Through the latest congress of their party and the basic documents approved by it, the Soviet revisionists are seeking to create illusory images of a boom turning point in present-day Soviet society, of a new advance of this society toward a "new qualitative stage." They wish to provide their party's economic strategy with a supposedly more objective and feasible presentation. In trying to distance themselves from the fantastic and utopian promises, the

extreme Khrushchevite voluntarism, and the Brezhnevite bureaucratic immobilization that have by now discredited the Soviet Union as a result of its numerous failures in all fields, the congress declared in fact the postponement of the same objectives up to the end of the current millenia, replacing one advertisement with another. The objectives that the Soviet leadership hopes to attain by the year 2000 in doubling the overall industrial production and the national income are no less ambitious than those preached by Khrushchev in the sixties.

The so-called new economic strategy of the Soviet revisionists places particular stress on technical and scientific progress, the technological reconstruction of the economy, its modernization and intensification, as well as on changes in the "stereotype of the economic policy," in the economic mechanism, and in the forms and methods of administration. Under the demagogic slogan of "real socialism," the Kremlin leaders are trying to create illusions about the capabilities of the Soviet "socialist" system in overcoming numerous negative phenomena, the severe economic situation created in that country, the stagnation, inflation, parasitism, speculation, apathy, declining dynamism, and so forth. They also wish to conceal the truth that all this is a result of the capitalist system that has been restored in the Soviet Union, the direct result of the domination of state monopoly capitalism, of bureaucratic administration at all levels, of the unchecked arms race, and of the feverish war preparations that have cost the Soviet Union colossal investments, have further deepened the crisis, and have caused defeat after defeat.

The "radical reforms" that have begun to be implemented, and that are expected to be implemented in the future under the slogan of "innovation" and "gradual economic and social development," reflect, on the one hand, a centralizing tendency to consolidate the strong monopoly units through the creation of intereconomic units like the large industrial-agrarian complexes or industrial-trading complexes; and, on the other hand, reflect a tendency to extend the autonomy of these monopoly units and enterprises, raising their profit potential on the basis of final results. It is, therefore, a question of the coexistence between bureaucratic centralism of the monopoly type and a broader economic liberalism at the grassroots, which is reflected in the extension of the self-management rights of enterprises (which recalls the failed Yugoslav model), in the extension of their powers in using commodity-money exchanges, in the use of material incentives, in the extension of private plots, and so forth. The declarations about "stimulating the interests of the working people in the final results of production," added to slogans about "higher living standards for the masses," cannot conceal the essence of the implementation of methods like the well-known shchekino method to intensify the exploitation of the labor of workers.

A distinguishing trait of the reforms dictated by the present Soviet leadership in the field of the economy is that, regardless of the "socialist" veneer that it is trying to give them, it stresses more forcefully the economic laws and categories of capitalism, the intentions of social production, and the methods of organization and management of production that

arise from these laws. Khrushchev's voluntaristic subjectivism, with its flights of fancy and his unrestrained discreditable actions, and Brezhnev's rigid bureaucratism, are being replaced by a more flexible technocratic and pragmatist line, represented by Gorbachev and his team, which is based more directly on the demands of the capitalist economic laws.

The implementation of this line is accompanied, on the one hand, by at great clamor about the struggle against numerous negative phenomena like bureaucracy, careerism, misuse of official positions, corruption, the propensity toward self-enrichment, bribery, the psychology of private property, alcoholism, hooliganism, and so forth; and on the other hand, by the dismissal of a number of cadres, including some in the higher ranks of the hierarchy, for being corrupt, bureaucratized, incompetent to lead under present conditions, or because of "age and health reasons." These ugly phenomena are not at all fortuitous, limited, or transitory; they do not constitute departures from social norms, as the revisionist propaganda strives to present them, but are a direct and natural product of the capitalist relations permeating all pores of present-day social life in the Soviet Union, and cannot therefore be made to disappear with the replacement of some cadres or of an entire section of leading cadres. This tide of dismissals and new appointments is also related to the need to bring in people who are more suited and adaptable to the present needs of capitalist modernization in the Soviet Union. But this is also a clear reflection of the power struggle between rival groups, so characteristic of the Soviet revisionist bureaucracy.

As was expected, in the international and foreign policy field, while playing the favorite and demagogic card of anti-imperialism, detente, disarmament, the avoidance of the danger of war, and the preservation of peace, the 27th CPSU Congress marked essentially an escalation and further deepening of the expansionist and hegemonistic course of Soviet socialimperialism. The international strategy presented by Gorbachev in his report embodies the Soviet Union's great worldwide ambitions and claims to domination in all directions and with regard to all problems. Soviet socialimperialism is seeking to implement this strategy by strengthening its military and diplomatic machinery in rivalry and in cooperation with American imperialism, strengthening the military and economic blocs dominated by the Soviet Union, and extending its military, political, and secret service intervention in various countries and areas throughout the world.

The Soviet Union's relations with American imperialism, their rivalries, competitions, and agreements, were sanctioned by the congress as being one of the fundamental directions of Soviet foreign policy. They constitute the backbone of the congress proceedings in the field of international policy. A lot was said and appeals were made at the congress about the "special responsibilities" of the Soviet Union and the United States with regard to the destiny of mankind and to peace in our times. But it is well-known that both the rivalry between the superpowers, and their negotiations and agreements, are built and are implemented on the totally imperialist foundation of parceling out zones of influence between themselves, that they embody the aspirations

and goals of each of the superpowers to extend their respective domination as widely as possible at the expense of the peoples and sovereign states. This is proven by the well-known facts of the aggression of the two superpowers in Afghanistan and in Grenada, their interventions in the Middle East and in Central America, their diktat in Europe through NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, and so forth.

There was a lot of peace demagogy at the congress, but it failed to cover up the war preparations of Soviet social imperialism or its aggressive and imperialist aims. Gorbachev loudly proposed a so-called worldwide collective security system which is but a compendium of the old Soviet proposals for regional collective security systems. Peoples have proven at their own expense that these proposals in no way help to secure worldwide peace and stability, but only the right of the Soviet Union, in rivalry and cooperation with the big imperialist powers and primarily the United States, to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and to dictate its will in international life.

The revisionist congress speculated a lot with the question of arms and disarmament. Gorbachev repeated the known Khrushchevite slogans of a world without weapons and wars. But the fiasco of the promises made by his predecessor is still fresh in the minds of people. It is clear that Gorbachev's demagogic programme concerning the liquidation of all nuclear arms within 15 years does not and cannot aim at the destruction of nuclear weapons; on the contrary, it is intended to deceive international public opinion and to regulate the pace and quota of the arms race together with American imperialism. A constant effort is made by the new Soviet leadership to create illusions among public opinion concerning the possibility of achieving complete and general disarmament in the conditions of imperialism and as a result of the goodwill of imperialist leaders. The intention is also to divert the peoples' attention from the aggressive and hegemonistic nature of the foreign policies of imperialism and socialimperialism.

The neocolonialist policy of Soviet socialimperialism sanctioned by the congress was also clearly apparent in the position toward the countries belonging to the so-called socialist community. The congress of the Soviet revisionists called on all the other revisionist parties in East Europe and set out concrete tasks for them to accelerate the pace of their economic, political, and military integration in accordance with the Kremlin's demands. The Warsaw Pact and CEMA remain at the foundation of this integratory process, which is detrimental to the other revisionist countries. The congress adopted a similar master-like attitude toward the national liberation and anti-imperialist movements and forces in various parts of the world. The Soviet Union is seeking to take them under the arm and use them as instruments of its foreign policy by trumpeting the deceitful slogans of being a natural ally of the liberation movements.

The situation created within the Soviet Union, but also its socialimperialist foreign policy, are a natural result of the bourgeois class essence of the

Soviet party and state. Current developments show once again the correctness of the analyses, conclusions, and predictions of the AWP and Comrade Enver Hoxha concerning the evolution of Khrushchevite revisionism and Soviet social-imperialism. Nothing has changed and nothing will change in these Marxist-Leninist conclusions concerning the Soviet revisionists. They represent a dangerous counterrevolutionary force which oppresses and rules over the working masses in the Soviet Union. In the international arena, jointly with American imperialism, they represent a fortress of reaction. Soviet revisionism represents the most dangerous variant of modern revisionism, seeking to ideologically confuse the revolutionary movements in the world, while the Soviet state is an aggressive, oppressive superpower, a rabid enemy of the freedom, independence, and progress of the peoples. As far as the AWP is concerned, the position toward these enemies of the revolution and of the peoples is clear-cut and firm: constant and uncompromising struggle until they have been completely unmasked.

Comrade Ramiz Alia has stated: "Our country has been and remains a determined opponent of the aggressive and expansionistic policy of American imperialism and Soviet socialimperialism, an irreconcilable opponent of reactionary bourgeois and revisionist ideologies. Our position toward them has always been and remains clear-cut."

This is the only correct position that can be adopted toward them. Any illusion about a positive evolution and changes in the Soviet leadership is not only baseless, but also extremely dangerous and harmful to the cause of the revolution and to freedom-loving peoples throughout the world.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

PROFESSOR CITES IMPORTANCE OF 'SOUND, FREE' DEBATE

AU041353 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 25 Feb 86 pp 3-4

[Professor Hamit Beqja article: "Kindling Further Debate"]

[Excerpts] Our scientific activity and creativity is growing daily. Particularly in the field of the social sciences, it is reflected not only in important collective publications, but also in serious monographs, doctoral theses, and so forth. Despite all this, discussion on the achievements and on the value of these works is still bland, particularly public discussion in the media.

One could assume that the discussion takes place before the completion of the studies and the publication of the respective works. We do not think so. Numerous dissertations are defended to gain the title of candidate or doctor of sciences. In the respective scientific sections, in the higher schools, and in other scientific institutions throughout the country, these dissertations sometimes resemble a ceremonial parade.

Numerous scientific sessions and conferences are held. Valuable reports and papers are read in them. But we fail to hear questions, let alone debates, criticisms, and counter arguments. The ceremonial element predominates here, too, at least superficially, as well as a feeling of satisfaction with the mere development of such activities.

When a popular discussion on the further revolutionizing of the schools began nearly 2 decades ago, the debates around textbooks assumed the character of a general ideological action. But this revolutionary beginning failed to be transformed into a stable tradition. The discussions tended to enter into professional channels, at a time when the problems needing discussion were extremely acute. Some time ago the writer Ismail Kadare published an article "On Literary Reading Texts in the School." It was a voice raising an important problem and demands that have been presented before, a voice blazing a path not only to critical analysis, but also to discussion.

At his meeting with writers and artists in Korce, Comrade Ramiz Alia once again strongly posed the problem of the struggle against mediocrity and the

danger of adapting to an average level in literature and the arts. Numerous discussions have been held on this subject in literary circles. But a more or less complete and profound analysis of the causes of this manifestation, particularly its occasional appearances, has not yet been made available to the country's public opinion.

The respective circles of writers, and particularly those engaged in literary criticism, have rightly dwelt recently on a certain decline in the standard of our novels and have discussed this problem. But it appears to us that this criticism and debate has been rather in the nature of a mere acknowledgment of a fact and sometimes even in the nature of a legitimization of this fact. The necessary militant note has been lacking in this debate.

Let us pass on to another field, the field of the propagation of Marxism-Leninism and, closely related to this, the field of the theoretical-scientific thinking of our party and Comrade Enver Hoxha. Everyone in our country learns about this, going from the schools and to a specially organized system for the communists and the masses. Despite the tasks constantly posed by the party, we fail to hear questions and debates in this educational and propagandist activity which should be closely linked with life. It is not merely a question of polemics with bourgeois and revisionist views, but a question of discussing in a Marxist-Leninist spirit the new domestic and international problems presented by life itself, our party's positions toward these developments, and the tasks arising therefrom.

It would be superfluous to stress here that in addition to the intellectual life of our people, the spirit of debate extends throughout our social and state activity, in the work of the party, in the economy. Debate is not only a way of acquiring knowledge, it is not only a method of education, but is also a method of work.

In dwelling intentionally on the question of the still unsatisfactory use of debate, it is particularly necessary that we should stress its nature and importance, because only a conscious understanding of the nature and importance of debate can arm us ideologically with the understanding of the absolute necessity of a broader and more fruitful use of debate. The absolute necessity and value of debate are multilateral. Hence, the difficulty of understanding it. Brilliantly applying the dialectic to the theory of knowledge, Lenin used to stress that from the viewpoint of knowledge the exaggeration of one aspect of the truth and the minimizing or obscuring of its other aspects paves the way for idealistic and metaphysical mistakes. The threshing out of ideas therefore helps to uncover all aspects of the truth. As wise old Voltaire used to say, truth is born through debate. Discussion illuminates various aspects of the truth, fills in its shape, and helps destroy what is illusory and to affirm what is genuine. This is our materialistic-dialectical methodological understanding of the place and importance of debate in the process of acquiring knowledge and, consequently, in social activity.

From the political viewpoint, debate stimulates, democratizes, and revolutionarizes the country's entire life. Debate gives concrete shape to the

free expression of ideas. Such a climate is particularly essential for the flourishing of the spiritual life of our socialist society, the spiritual emancipation of our new man. It stimulates new ideas and thoughts, new revolutionary initiatives and actions.

On the ideological plane, a genuine and broad debate in our socialist society is a guarantee of the active formation of our new man, of the struggle against fruitless doctrinaire thinking and blind conformism. Stressing that the spirit of the confrontation of ideas and the method of debating is not properly reflected in our propaganda, Comrade Enver Hoxha pointed out that being a revolutionary theory and shedding light on the new problems thrown up by life itself, Marxism-Leninism develops in struggle against the views of its ideological opponents. "It is only in the process of this struggle that Marxism-Leninism can be mastered profoundly, that lively Marxist-Leninist ideas can be planted and transformed into conscious and militant beliefs. The confrontation of views and debate must be broadly used within the party itself and in society, in struggle against all manifestations of conformism and the inclination to cover up contradictions. This is the only way to lay the foundations of an active immunity against alien ideology; this is the only way of achieving a genuine revolutionary education." These Marxist-Leninist interpretations preserve their total validity to this day and serve also as a key to a correct understanding of the essence of the problems that we raised at the beginning of this article.

From the ethical and professional viewpoint, free and sound debate provides people with the opportunity to show themselves, their capabilities, work, professional training, and moral personality. We observe not infrequently that where debate is lacking, mediocrity and incapability find room, criticism and self-criticism are lacking, mutual relations of "pleasing one another" predominate, the capable are hindered, as are the bold, those who launch new ideas and undertake new initiatives.

The spirit of sound and free debate is penetrating increasingly into our socialist family, in accordance with the age differences of its members. This influences our new generation and its active education very positively. But conservatism does not relinquish its positions easily. When boys and girls express an opinion of their own, particularly in a contrary sense, do we not frequently hear their parents saying: Sit down there, wait until you know what you are saying! Time and effort will be needed for the democratic spirit of the free acceptance of the independent opinion of the young generation to predominate even in the family.

It is up to the schools to lay the genuine foundations of the educational work to teach our generation how to master the art of debate. And our schools are striving to achieve this. In the course of the further revolutionizing of our schools, the practice of debate has been worked out as a particular method of teaching and education. Meanwhile, the party has posed the task that we should develop the lively and creative thinking of students and school-children, the independence of their opinion. But even in schools there is still too little debate, even in the seminars, which are the most appropriate place for it. This is still being hindered by the predominance of mechanical and merely reproductive learning. But this could leave permanent traces in people throughout their lives, and all the more so when the educational style of the broad social life cannot fail to be reflected in the schools.

These are dialectical interdependences that should be better utilized for the good of the development of debate.

However, an entire structure of public information media has been placed over the work of the schools. They are somewhat more dynamic in freely drawing out the opinion of people. Sometimes, particularly in special discussions, in cultural journals, and television programs on various social problems we may see interesting chronicles and feature with lively exchange of views. But as Comrade Enver Hoxha has said, despite the progress, past and present, there is still a lot of formalism and bureaucracy in all this effort, standard and out of date forms of work and methods are still used, and there is little creativity. This is so at a time when "we must not hesitate to boldly relinquish those outdated forms and methods of work that no longer correspond with the present level of the political, ideological, and cultural development of our people, the demands raised on the basis of this development, and the need to constantly raise it." All these considerations and their positive and contradictory aspects are also valid with regard to the special study of Marxism-Leninism, by the communists, cadres, the intelligentsia, youth, and all the working people.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

ALIA 'MESSAGE OF THANKS' FOR CONDOLENCES ON WIFE'S DEATH

AU192108 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1700 GMT 19 Mar 86

["Message of Thanks" from Ramiz Alia, chairman of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, to authors of condolence messages on his wife's death--read by announcer]

[Text] In these days of deep sorrow caused to myself and my whole family by the premature death of my life companion, Semiramis, a large number of letters and telegrams of condolence have come from collectives and individual working people. In them, workers and cooperativists, military units, groups of veterans, fellow countrymen, friends, and many comrades have expressed their feelings of brotherly solidarity, and have given us great courage. Many, many working people and well-wishers known to us in Tirana and its district have visited us at home and stayed with us, and given us strength and created the friendly warmth so necessary at such a time. With the friendliness and profound human feeling expressed to us on this occasion by our people, elevated to a higher qualitative level by the party and Comrade Enver Hoxha, and with your cordial and encouraging words, you, dear comrades and friends, have much eased our sorrow. I wish to express to all the thanks and gratitude of my family and myself for your feelings of social affection and the great warmth which have surrounded us at every moment. I wish to thank particularly the party and its leaders, my dear friends, for the care they showed and everything that they did for Semiramis and myself. I assure the people and the party, and I assure everybody, that I shall devote my entire strength and energy, mind and heart to repaying this honor shown to our dear Semiramis, always fulfilling honorably and tirelessly the tasks entrusted to me by the party and the people. We communists, as your telegrams say, have been taught by the party to face up to grief and turn it into strength. Once again I thank you all. May you always have happiness and success in your work and in your family.

[Signed] Ramiz Alia, Tirana, 19 March 1986

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

YOUTH ORGANIZATION DISCUSSES 'UGLY PHENOMENA'

AU041219 Tirana ZERI I RINISE in Albanian 26 Feb 86 p 3

[Letter to ZERI I RINISE from the Youth Organization of Class III-6 of the "Partizani" general secondary school, Tirana: "We Leave With Lindita, but, Unlike Her, Do Not Keep Silent"]

[Text] Several letters have come to the editor, signed by the youth organizations of secondary schools, and from individual young people, expressing their opinions of the article "Why Lindita Left the Birthday Party," published in our newspaper on 5 February this year. From these letters we realize that discussions on the problems raised by this article have been lively and substantial, according to the character of each school, and have been particularly lively in the youth organizations of the secondary schools of the capital. We might say that the discussions have been a kind of continuation of the article, and, what is more important, have acted as a spur to enliven further the cultural-artistic life of schools. Here we publish one of these letters:

One of our friends left a party, indeed a birthday party, where a close circle of friends met, as is normal. No demonstrative departure, but a simple facial expression of boredom is enough to spoil the pleasure of such evenings. But Lindita could not stay. In the discussion in our organization, we approved everything that she did. She did well to leave, but why did she say nothing afterward? Why did she not bring the problem to the youth organization the very next morning? This is very important because indifference and secrecy only encourage the activity of those "cultured" people whom the article criticizes. In giving one's verdict on Lindita, everybody tried to imagine himself in her position. Some young people said that she should have stood her ground and objected at once. Lindita did not do this, perhaps because it was a birthday party, given, as we said, for a close circle of friends. This is what one of our friends said, who considered it enough that Lindita boycotted the evening, although she did not justify her silence the next day. After this discussion, we all "leave" like Lindita, but unlike her we do not keep silent.

We share the stand against these "cultured" people, who are in reality uncultured. Cultured young people are those who master the study syllabus,

who have wide interests, and strive continually to deepen them. Our young people are like this, and are able to judge beauty correctly, discovering it in all its profundity, without being tempted by the superficial side of various ugly phenomena which bourgeois propaganda sweetens and "decorates" to muddy the minds of our young people. Culture is the ability to understand and appreciate true beauty. This found everywhere around us, in nature, in the heroic labor of our people, in our new socialist art, in progressive world art. It is everywhere in our libraries, on the screens of our cinemas and television sets.

Our young people have raised many problems in these recently awakened discussions: For example, the problem of raising the cultural, musical, and artistic level of young people, something which can only be done by the insistent work of the organization itself.

In this discussion, attention was drawn to the work the bureau of the youth organization and the youth committees of the school must do to organize evenings of entertainment on certain themes, stressing that there should be more of these in the future, with the aim of fulfilling the desires and interests of our young people.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

AWP PAPER ASSESSES ECONOMIC, SOCIAL HARM OF ABSENTEEISM

AU041255 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 22 Feb 86 pp 1-2

[ZERI I POPULLIT press brigade article: "Liberal Attitudes Artificially Raise Temporary Incapacity for Work"]

[Excerpts] The protection of health is a sacred law, a lofty and daily duty for our party. The creation of conditions bearing no comparison with the past is a testimony of this solicitude: The broad network of medical institutions, medical centers, dispensaries, clinics, and hospitals, as well as an entire army of physicians who are the guardians of the health of the people. All this, including the free service provided to everyone, constitutes one of our great victories on the road to socialism.

But our people, all our honest citizens, cannot reconcile themselves with those manifestations and attitudes of a number of people who are seeking to speculate with the law, to benefit and to take what is not right and does not belong to them. Last year, 10 million leks in excess of the plan were spent on the national scale for days off because of temporary incapacity for work. Throughout the country this is equivalent to 2,300 people not working even one day a year but nevertheless getting paid. Facts indicate that this figure includes a number of unjustified medical certificates issued with a free hand. The artificial increase in the level of temporary work incapacity is a reflection of the liberalism of some irresponsible physicians, but also of the irresponsibility of deceiving and parasitic citizens.

The undeserved pay received as a result of the issuing of fictitious medical certificates not only represents a loss of production for the economy, but is also an important sociopolitical question. This is a matter of consciousness, but as was stressed at the 13th AWP Central Committee plenum, this is also related to organization and control, which must be strict and continuous in this, as in other fields. In the places where this question is kept in mind by the state organs and mass organization, under the guidance of the party organs and organizations, the results are positive and temporary work incapacity has been reduced below the planned level. Korçe, Berat, Vlore, Lushnje, Pogradec, and some other districts, for example, closed the year 1985 with a level of temporary work incapacity below what was planned, owing to careful work, constant control, the study of causes, and timely measures.

This has not been the case in Durres, Fier, Tirana, and some other districts, where temporary work incapacity is still at a high level, despite improvements. Tirana District had last year 287,000 days of temporary work incapacity above the planned level. This means that 920 workers were absent from each day. The corresponding figure for Durres District is 455 and for Fier District, 263. This indicates liberalism and formalism in the tackling of this problem by the district health organs, as well as by the respective institutions at the grassroots, physicians, specialists, the mass organizations, and particularly the trade unions and some branches of the social security service.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

STATISTICS DEPARTMENT: POPULATION REACHED 3 MILLION

AU030917 Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 3 Mar 86

[Text] Tirana, March 3 (ATA)--ATA correspondent learned in the Statistics Department of the State Planning Commission that on February 27, 1986 the population of our country reached the figure of 3 million people.

In 1936, there were 1 million people; 32 years later in 1968, the population reached to 2 million; and today, after 18 years, it amounted to 3 million people.

In these 4 decades the population has expanded with an average annual rate of 2.5 per cent. This increase has been a result of the correct demographic policy pursued by the party to meet the needs of the rapid development of the country. This vigorous demographic development in our country, consequence of the great number of births and a continuous decrease of the number of deaths is testimony to the continuous care the party shows of the elevation of the material and cultural wellbeing and the health of the working masses. The average life span is now 71 from 38.3 that was in 1938.

Hence, it has become possible that the population of our country have a structure of young ages, which has allowed and allows in the future too the rapid growth of the active forces to maintain the high rates in the increase of social product and further consolidation of the defence capacity of the country. Its average age now is 26.5 years old. Over 1 million inhabitants are under 15.

Another characteristic of the demographic development of our country are the right proportions in the territorial distribution of the population in the city and countryside and in all the regions of the country.

According to the prognostic studies, in 2,000 the population of our country will reach the figure of 4 million people.

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POLITICS

ALBANIA

AWP PAPER DEMANDS MORE, BETTER TRANSLATIONS

AU290609 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 18 Mar 86 pp 3-4

[Hamit Beqja article: "The Question of Translations in Every Subject"]

[Excerpts] It is a shame that the newspaper DRITA often looks at things from a limited perspective, even when the topic demands a broader treatment, as we see in the present debate on translations.

It is true that DRITA is a "literary-artistic weekly," but it is at the same time the cultural magazine that carries most weight in our country. It seems to us that its literary-artistic character should not prevent it from dealing with matters of cultural importance. On the contrary, this makes such subjects all the more necessary, to bring the newspaper inspiration and broader vision, and more readers with more varied interests.

But unfortunately even when such chances arise, the newspaper stays within its traditional "orbit," apparently under the influence of a tradition which could become inertia.

It is not simply a matter of more and better translations from literature. It is a question of well-chosen and substantial translations from the whole of world culture, past and present. From literature and art, of course, but also from science, and from the most varied branches of knowledge. Not only literary works, even though they might be the most popular. Not just novels, but academic publications too, monographs, treatises, autobiographies, memoirs, etc., political, historical, scientific and technical literature.

As readers we may often prefer artistic literature. But when we consider the question as teachers and educators, we will all realize that the younger generation, and even adult working people too, cannot acquire the cultural maturity the times require without getting to know the most important different sources of knowledge and information to do with society. And gaining this knowledge from the most serious and substantial sources.

However, our readers are now more educated in all ways. Let us forget that nearly a quarter of a million inhabitants of Albania today have completed a

secondary education, and that among them there are tens of thousands with higher education. We are dealing with even higher demands, tastes that grow and are cultivated every day; we have to do with varied interests, with the thirst for knowledge of a new socialist nation. The problems raised in the debate on translations can only be understood and solved in the context of this broad cultural development.

We cannot fail to notice that there have also been contradictory features in translations from artistic literature, especially in the last 2 decades. On the one hand, it is right to aim at strict criterion of translating works with clear ideo-artistic content, suitable to our educational problems, from as wide a geographical range of writers as possible, and from contemporary writing which deals with modern and topical social problems. However, the demand of high artistic quality has often been lowered. Some works of merely average quality have been translated. Which will not serve to raise readers' ideo-artistic level, nor to cultivate a good aesthetic taste. The more we struggle against different signs of mediocrity in our own national literature, the more senseless the translation of merely average works becomes. Standards cannot but increase. Here we must embark upon a short digression on foreign films. It seems to us that in recent decades our cinema and television audiences have become sated with average films--we may even say below average--that do not correspond to their ever-rising cultural level, their ever-deepening spiritual world, and their ever-developing healthy ideo-aesthetic tastes. At first sight these films might be considered "harmless". But that is not the case. They are harmful precisely to people's tastes. But perhaps not their tastes alone, but their mentality and psychology as a whole. So it is necessary, and we also think possible, for higher criteria here and more careful choice.

But our weakness in the field of translation from scientific literature is still more serious. Until recently we worked in fairly sporadic and almost absent-minded fashion in this field. Recently, advances have begun to be made. A few substantial translations in the field of biology and its related disciplines have been noticed. But there have been no signs of any progress in the other natural sciences.

The situation in the social sciences is even worse, especially in history. There are a few somewhat cursory biographies of distinguished people. But there is a lack of books about great historical events. For instance, our readers still do not have the opportunity to become familiar with such an important event as the Second World War. But there are other events of greater or lesser importance which are in the same situation. We believe that among the many books written about them there must be some which are or could be appropriate for our readers. But here our high ideological and scientific demands should not be confused with conformist tendencies of just wanting to be in line.

Our libraries need to be enriched constantly with good quality books translated from foreign literature. We hope that this has emerged clearly, not only where artistic literature is concerned, but in other subjects too. Our

publishing houses, our educational and scientific institutions, our students and translators, have the task of expanding and improving their work, and raising its quality from all points of view--intellectual, scientific, and professional. This is a debt they owe to our readers, to the young generation, and to the demands and teachings of the party and Comrade Enver Hoxha for a communist education.

/6662

CSO: 2020/110

POLITICS

ALBANIA

BRIEFS

GHANA NATIONAL DAY GREETINGS--Tirana, March 6 (ATA)--The President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia sent the following message of greetings to the President of Ghana Jerry Rawlings: "On occasion of your National Day, on behalf of the Albanian people, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and in my name, I convey to you cordial greetings and to the Ghanese people the best wishes for the progress and prosperity of the country." [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 6 Mar 86 AU] /6662

PRK THANKED FOR GREETINGS--Recently, Comrade Reis Malile, foreign minister of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, sent a message of thanks to Comrade Hun Sen, foreign minister of the PRK. The message, among other things, says: We would like to express sincere thanks for the congratulations you sent on the proclamation day of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. I wish the Cambodian people happiness and glory. I firmly believe that the relations of friendship between our two countries' people will be further strengthened and developed. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Mar 86 BK] /6662

TRADE TALKS WITH AUSTRIA--Tirana--During his official visit to the Socialist People's Republic of Albania Dr Erich Schmidt, Austrian state secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, and Industry, was received on Friday [8 March] in Tirana by Albanian Premier Adil Carcani for an extensive talk, which according to the Austrian side took place in a very cordial atmosphere. On this occasion the Albanian head of government stressed his country's interest not only in intensifying economic relations with Austria but also in closer cooperation in the fields of art, culture, and science. The Austrian state secretary, for his part, said that he sees very good possibilities for a further positive development of economic relations between Austria and Albania. The Austrian trade delegation headed by State Secretary Schmidt took part in the first session of the Austrian-Albanian Government Commission for Trade, which was held in Tirana from Wednesday to Friday [6-8 March]. At the end of the session Dr Schmidt and Minister of Foreign Trade Shane Korbeci signed a trade agreement for 1986-1990. This created the framework for the further intensification of bilateral economic relations. [Text] [Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 9 Mar 86 p 1 AU] /6662

GREETINGS TO FRENCH CHIRAC--Tirana, April 1 (ATA)--The chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Adil Carcani, sent the following message of greetings to the premier of the French Republic, Jacques Chirac: "On occasion of your appointment to the high post of the premier of the French Republic, it is a pleasure for me to convey to you sincere greetings and the best wishes. I am convinced that the friendly relations between Albania and France will develop in the future too, in the interest of our two peoples." [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0735 GMT 1 Apr 86 AU] /6662

MISKA, DELEGATION TO ALGERIA--Tirana, March 27 (ATA)--At the invitation of the chairman of the People's National Assembly of the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic, Rabah Bitat, a delegation of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, led by the chairman of the Presidency of the People's Assembly Pali Miska left on an official and friendly visit to Algeria, on March 26. Present to see the delegation off were the Vice-President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly Rita Marko, the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Besnik Bekteshi, deputies, etc. [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0900 GMT 27 Mar 86 AU] /6662

GREETINGS TO PAKISTAN'S ZIAUL HAQ--Tirana, March 23 (ATA)--The President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia sent the following message of greetings to the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Ziaul Haq: "The commemoration of your national day, the 30th anniversary of the proclamation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, provides me the opportunity to convey to you and the friendly Pakistan people the sincere greetings and the best wishes for progress and prosperity. I wish that the friendly relations existing between Albania and Pakistan develop and strengthen still more in the future." [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0735 GMT 23 Mar 86 AU] /6662

HOXHA'S BOOK 'THE SUPERPOWERS'--Tirana, April 6 (ATA)--The new book "The Superpowers" by the respected and unforgettable leader of our party and people, Comrade Enver Hoxha, came off the press and was put to circulation. This book is included in the series of publications which selected items from the political diary on international problems and includes notes, articles, reflections, and political panoramas written by the author from 1959 until 1984. The materials of this book make a profound and allsided analysis of the policy and stand of the imperialist superpowers, the United States of America and the Soviet Union, the plots, intrigues, and their political, economic and military interferences for world hegemony. The book deals with and gives evidence of the stands and struggle of our party and the Albanian people to safeguard not only freedom and independence of socialist Albania, but also the cause of the peoples of the world. The book has also an index. It will be puboished soon in some foreign languages. [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 1715 GMT 6 Apr 86 AU] /6662

ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR LEAVES--Tirana, March 2 (ATA)--On occasion of his transfer, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Argentina to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania Juan Carlos Gimenez Melo left our country. The ambassador was seen off at the airport by the chairman of the protocol branch at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kostaq Cifligu. [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0940 GMT 2 Mar 86 AU] /6662

BELGIAN AMBASSADOR RECEIVED--Tirana, March 1 (ATA)--The president of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia, received on February 28 the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Belgium to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Jan R. Blankaert, who presented the credentials. Attending the ceremony of the presentation of the credentials were the minister of foreign affairs, Reis Malile; the secretary of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, Sihat Tozaj; director of department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zeqi Agolli; and the chairman of the protocol branch at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kostaq Cifliku. The ambassador was accompanied by the adviser of the embassy, Rober Vanreusel. [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 1 Mar 86 AU] /6662

NEW AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR--Tirana, March 2 (ATA)--The newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania Paul Leifer arrived in our country. The ambassador was welcomed at the airport by the chairman of the protocol branch at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kostaq Cifliku. [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0935 GMT 2 Mar 86 AU] /6662

MALILE RECEIVES AUSTRIAN ENVOY--Tirana, March 4 (ATA)--The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania Reis Malile received yesterday the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to the People's Socialist Republic of Albania Paul Leifer regarding the forthcoming presentation of the credentials to the President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 4 Mar 86 AU] /6662

GREETINGS TO PRK--Comrade Ramiz Alia, first secretary of the Albanian Workers Party Central Committee and chairman of the People's Assembly Presidium of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, and Comrade Adil Carcani, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, recently sent a message of thanks to Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, and Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the PRK. The message noted, among other things: We would like to thank you sincerely for the warm greetings you sent us on the occasion of the 40th declaration of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania. We wish the Cambodian people new victories in their work for the progress and prosperity of your country and for strengthening their national defense. We are convinced that relations of friendship between our two peoples and countries will further strengthen. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 Mar 86 BK] /6662

EARTHQUAKE NEAR KUKES--Tirana, March 4 (ATA)--Our seismological network registered at 02.04 and 05.25 hours of March 3, 1986 two earthquake tremors of 4.6 and 4.2 points on the Richter scale respectively and with an intensity of about 6 points Mercalli scale-64 in its epicenter. The epicenter was 25 km southeast of Kukes town. There are no casualties. From the earthquake there was some damage in residential, economic and social-cultural buildings. The organs of the party and government have adopted all measures to liquidate the consequences. [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0900 GMT 4 Mar 86 AU] /6662

GREETINGS TO MOROCCO'S HASSAN--Tirana, March 4 (ATA)--The President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania Comrade Ramiz Alia sent the following message of greetings to the King of Morocco Hassan II: "On the occasion of the celebration of your national day I would like in the name of the Albanian people, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and in my name to convey to you my sincere greetings and at the same time to formulate the best wishes for the wellbeing and prosperity of the friendly people of Morocco." [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 4 Mar 86 AU] /6662

GREETINGS TO SWEDEN'S CARLSSON--Tirana, March 18 (ATA)--The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Adil Carcani sent the following message of greetings to the Premier of the Kingdom of Sweden Ingvar Carlsson: "On occasion of your election to the high post of the premier of Sweden, it is a pleasure for me to convey to you the best greetings and wishes for successes in your important duty. I express my conviction that the friendly relations between Albania and Sweden will develop uninterruptedly in the future. [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 18 Mar 86 AU] /6662

DEPARTING ENVOY TO FINLAND--Tirana, March 19 (ATA)--The President of the Republic of Finland, Mauno Koivisto received the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the PSR of Albania in Finland Izedin Hajdini on occasion of his transfer. President Koivisto appreciated the friendly relations between Finland and Albania and expressed his confidence that in the future too they will develop still further in favour of our two peoples and countries. The reception passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere. [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 19 Mar 86 AU] /6662

CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH FINLAND--Tirana, March 23 (ATA)--[Spelling of all Finnish names as received]--The program on cultural and scientific exchanges between the government of the PSR of Albania and the government of the Republic of Finland for 1986-1988 was signed in Helsinki these days. The program was signed for the Albanian side by the Chairman of the Albanian Committee for Cultural and Friendly Relations with Foreign Countries Jorgo Melica, while for the Finnish side by Ritvalisa Elomaa, directress at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Upon its stay in Finland, the Albanian delegation was received by the Minister of Culture and Science Gustav Bjorkstrand, the chairman of the Finnish parliamentary group at the Interparliamentary Union Juhani Toumala, etc. Likewise, it visited cultural and education institutions in Helsinki. [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 23 Mar 86 AU] /6662

GREETINGS TO MALTA PRESIDENT--Tirana, April 1 (ATA)--The President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania Comrade Ramiz Alia sent the following message of greetings to the President of the Republic of Malta Agatha Barbara: "The celebration of your national day avails me of the opportunity that in the name of the Albanian people, the Presidium of the People's Assembly and in my name to convey to you sincere greetings and at the same time to formulate the best wishes for the wellbeing and prosperity of the friendly people of Malta. I wish that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries develop further to the mutual benefit and the peace in our region." [Text] [Tirana ATA in English 0730 GMT 1 Apr 86 AU] /6662
CSO: 2020/110

POLITICS

BULGARIA

REPORTAGE ON REACTION TO ANTONOV TRIAL, VERDICT

Rossi Defense Summation

AU221533 Sofia BTA in English 2019 GMT 21 Mar 86

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Rome, March 21 (BTA correspondent)--Lawyer Manfredo Rossi, counsel for the defence of the Bulgarian nationals Zhelyo Vasilev and Todor Ayvazov, started his summation at today's 94th court hearing in Foro Italico. In his remarks, he described Agca as "a bard of terrorism who went so far as to slander even the head of state of a country which carries immense weight in international relations.

He opened his speech by a judicial argumentation and analysis of the procedural behaviour of Ali Agca. On November 16, 1981 Agca had received communication in prison that an investigation was under way "against some unknown parties charged with complicity in the assassination attempt against the pope," a crime for which he had been convicted on July 22 that same year. In this connection the assassin had been asked to name his counsel. From a judicial viewpoint, this fact is just stupendous. For, under the law, nobody can be tried twice for one and the same offence. Some may say that Agca was charged with the illegal possession of firearms. All right, but the introduction of the gun into Italy came to light only in May 1982. How can one account then for the original attention which the investigating authorities paid to Agca?

"His stock has been inflated," the lawyer went on to say. "Claire Sterling wrote that this gentleman wanted to become the first penitent of a world class. This claim is corroborated by a letter of his which has been enclosed with the investigation file. There are however certain principles by which an investigation should be guided. The first requirement is the invariability of the version, i.e. testimonies against other persons may not be changed. The second requirement is the spontaneity of testimony. But Agca has received information from representatives of the so-called parallel secret services, and this has been put on record. He has been promised to get out of prison in several years. Besides, the prosecution case must be built on a logical sequence and must contain at least one independent and objective corroboration. These things are entirely lacking," Dr. Rossi emphasised.

But to make up for it there is no lack of absurdities which the lawyer ironically called "authentic pearls" in the prosecution case, listing some of them: Agca is an assassin who offered his services in the public square [as received] and was engaged by the abettors; "at least 50 or more than 120 people know about this plot"; the assassin has neither a passport nor a gun, he does not receive a remuneration, he found shelter in the homes of the "abettors" and talked with them in a close family circle, he arranged everything by telephone, etc., etc.

"The allegation that the 'proclamation' found in Agca's pocket on his arrest was dictated to him by 'Sotir Petrov,' i.e. by my client Zhelyo Vasilev in order to mislead the authorities that the assailant had acted on his own is a base lie. Did not the assailant himself assert that there were other people on the spot who were to throw panic bombs and to shoot. Then the 'proclamation' would have been refuted immediately on the spot," the lawyer pointed out.

In the afternoon session Lawyer Rossi elaborated on the issue of the constant interference of the secret services in the masterminding of Agca. He quoted excerpts from the report of the police commissar Belizario of October 7, 1981 which contains Agca's statements about guns, about his passing through Bulgaria and through the FRG (afterwards this country disappeared from the following versions of Agca), about Arab terrorists, etc. Later the assassin wanted to meet journalists. Then he insisted that a DIGOS commissar and a representative of the SISMI and DIGOS secret services visit him instead of the journalists without an interpreter and in the absence of the investigating magistrate. And true enough on December 29, 1981 he was visited at the Ascoli Piceno prison by two representatives of the secret services.

The investigative records show that Investigating Magistrate Ilario Martella understood what was actually happening only in August 1982. On December 20 that same year before the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament, the then Minister of Defence Lelio Lagario levelling gross and totally groundless accusations against Bulgaria revealed some details of the activities of the secret services on the "Agca case." Summing up these facts Dr. Rossi reached the conclusion that the aim of these political manoeuvres was to find a pretext for aggravating the international situation.

There has been no and there could have been no meeting between Agca and Omer Mersan, Bekir Celenk and Todor Ayvazov in the beginning of July 1980 in Sofia. Mersan entered Bulgaria on July 4 and left on July 5. Agca arrived in Sofia on July 23 with a false Indian passport. Celenk was in Bulgaria from July 11 through 15 and Todor Ayvazov arrived home for his summer holidays on July 22. These are irrefutable material proofs gathered by the investigating authorities in Bulgaria who rendered full assistance to the Italian Magistracy. But in spite of everything the investigating magistrate considered only the stamps of the one-day stay of Mersan in Bulgaria and wrote that these invalidated all other material proofs and supported Agca's thesis. It is outrageous to tolerate the way Agca "describes" Ayvazov looking at the photograph of the young man fleeing the square. Is it possible that an

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employee of the embassy would go and become a material accomplice in the attempt and would flee the square? To top it all Agca first alleged that this employee lived in a certain hotel, no one knows, which is near the "Termini" railway station in Rome, when we all know that his home was in 36 Galani Str. On the basis of these allegations employees of the embassy have been sent to trial. The investigating magistrate excuses Agca's slander about the preparation of an attempt on the life of Lech Walesa and this is the lowest point the investigation reaches.

"Do not tell me, Mr. Prosecutor, that Agca has withdrawn his evidence about the attempt against Walesa because he was afraid of being charged of mass murder. A person like him, who has undertaken as great a responsibility is not afraid of such things. He has gone beyond all limits," Lawyer Rossi said by way of conclusion.

Tomorrow he will formulate his requests and then the floor will be given to Lawyer Titta Madia who is Omer Bagci's counsel for the defence. In the meantime an unclear procedural situation came up in "Foro Italico." After having stated categorically before journalists that the sentence will be issued before the end of the month (?providing) that he is willing to hold hearings during the official in Italy Easter holidays in order to give everyone the possibility to take the floor. In this case "everyone" stands for Prosecutor Antonio Marini who wants to make a remark. The prosecutor however, does not wish to talk on Saturday afternoon but asked for some time to prepare himself. It is with good reason that Lawyer Guiseppe Consolo pointed out that if the prosecutor gives his remark up then there will be no counter remarks on the part of the counsels for the defence.

A number of observers are inclined to regard these unexpected events as a striving to prolong the trial which definitely does not ensue from wishes of the presiding judge.

Comment Reported on Verdict

AU292006 Sofia BTA in English 1643 GMT 29 Mar 86

["On the Rome Court Verdict"--BTA headline]

[Text] Brussels, March 29 (BTA correspondent)--"The verdict of acquittal for insufficient evidence, passed by the Rome court on the three Bulgarians wrongfully charged with complicity in the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II, has brought to an end one of the longest and most ludicrous trials in the history of Italian justice," stressed the Belgian radio in its commentary.

"Despite the nine months of court hearings, despite the hundreds of testimonies, despite the rogatory commissions carried out by Italian investigators in West Germany, Switzerland, Holland and Turkey, the notorious 'Bulgarian connection,' which the prosecution tried to pass off as a motor force of the pope plot, turned out to be completely bogus," said the Belgian radio correspondent Edouard Dublet reporting from Rome.

The Rome court has failed to produce evidence to prove that the attack on the pope should be tracked down to the hand of Moscow and its Bulgarian secret service go-betweens, the Belgian correspondent went on to say in his despatch.

Paris, March 29 (BTA correspondent)--The end of the trial for the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul with the acquittal of the three Bulgarian nationals is an exceedingly important fact in judicial and international practices, said Mr. Costa-Gravas, a well-known Greek-born cinema director and maker of films unmasking the fascist dictatorships and the persecution of progressive public figures and democrats throughout the world.

In his brief assessment of today's developments at Rome's Foro Italico--the acquittal of Sergey Antonov, Zhelyo Vasilev and Todor Ayvazov--he emphasised that the "verdict deals a blow at those politicians, heads of state and government, journalists and observers, who in the course of months have been making statements about the 'built' and have expressed their conviction of the complicity of the Soviet Union which, with the help of the 'Bulgarian Trojan horse,' has allegedly staged the attack on the pope."

"It turns out," Mr. Costa-Gravas went on to say, "that there is no such thing as a 'Bulgarian connection,' and that there is something quite different: that the Bulgarians are innocent."

Athens, March 29 (BTA correspondent)--The political value of the Rome court verdict is assessed in the following way here: The malicious campaign of vilification against Bulgaria and the other socialist countries has come to its inevitable flop. The plot against Bulgaria has crumbled. Let those who try to make schemes and intrigues for a cold war revival draw a lesson from this. Such schemes should be left to the past, where they properly belong.

Professor Alkis Argiriadis, chairman of the Legal Board of the Faculty of Law at Athens University and president of the Greek Committee for International Detente and Peace (E.E.D.I.E.), told the BTA correspondent in Athens: "It was my special delight and satisfaction to learn that Sergey Antonov and the two other Bulgarian nationals had been found not guilty of the charges preferred against them without a shred of corroborating evidence. The right verdict would have been to fully acquit Sergey Antonov and the other Bulgarians. The most important thing now is that Antonov be enabled to go back to his homeland as soon as possible.

"As to the political implications of the trial, I would like to express my satisfaction that one of the most malicious conspiracies against socialist Bulgaria and against the socialist community as a whole has collapsed."

New York, March 29 (BTA correspondent)--The report about the end of the second Rome trial for the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II makes the headlines of the radio and TV newscasts in the U.S. today. In courtroom despatches, American correspondents tell about the decision of the court to clear Sergey Antonov, Zhelyo Vasilev and Todor Ayvazov of the charges of complicity in that crime. The telecasts included pictures showing the delivery of the verdict of acquittal on the three Bulgarians, under which Sergey Antonov was discharged.

The Rome court verdict has met with broad response among the U.S. public.

Mr. Si Gerson, a well-known journalist, told the BTA correspondent that the verdict in the second Rome case of the papal assassination attempt has come after a long delay. Sergey Antonov and the two other Bulgarians should have long been acquitted because they are absolutely innocent, because Bulgaria has nothing to do with the slanderous accusations levelled at her in the Rome case.

The entire trial in Rome, which ended today, was a big anti-Bulgarian and anti-communist provocation, orchestrated by the ruling political circles in Washington, the American journalist said.

The Italian court ruling discharging Sergey Antonov--"for insufficient evidence" is insufficient and unfair. Sergey Antonov, as well as the two other Bulgarian defendants in this burnt-out case, should have been found absolutely not-guilty, Mr. Gerson said.

'Full Acquittal' Demanded

AU292024 Sofia BTA in English 1947 GMT 29 Mar 86

["After the Rome Court Verdict"--BTA headline]

[Text] Rome, March 29 (BTA correspondent)--Straight from the defendants' cage in Foro Italico, Sergey Antonov was driven to the embassy of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, where a large group of local and foreign reporters were waiting for him. Red-tape difficulties, however, prevented him from leaving the country already today on the regular Balkanair flight.

"I am glad that the truth has finally prevailed and that everybody has realized that I am innocent. At long last I will be able to go back to my country, to my family, to my friends and colleagues," Mr. Antonov said.

Asked by a reporter from the Italian television R.A.I. what he thought about Ali Agca now that his ordeal was behind, he answered: "He is an incredible slanderer."

The verdict of acquittal, Bulgarian Ambassador Rayko Nikolov pointed out, is an eloquent proof that there is no such thing as a Bulgarian connection to the monstrous crime committed against the head of the Roman Catholic Church. He indicated that terrorism has always been alien to Bulgaria's policy. At the same time, the ambassador noted that the negative consequences of these groundless accusations are still to be overcome, as they have affected the bilateral relations between Bulgaria and Italy.

"I am sorry that I have to sound polemic once again," Prof. Giuseppe Consolo said. "We, the defence lawyers, must say that we regret that Antonov was unable to exercise his statutory right to leave Italy immediately. That was yet another case of a belated interpretation of Italian law. It is indeed a pity that somebody has not made advance arrangements for the complete and timely execution of the acquittal verdict in a trial like this one."

It is quite probable that the formalities surrounding Mr. Antonov's departure would take longer, as Monday next is a public holiday in Italy.

The defence lawyers of the Bulgarian nationals, Prof. Giuseppe Consolo, Mr. Adolfo Larussa and Mr. Manfredo Rossi, have immediately appealed against the verdict and said they were firm in their intention to uphold their demand for a full acquittal of Antonov, Ayvazov and Vasilev on the grounds of their proven innocence. They have taken the case to the Court of Appeal.

BTA's Traykov Comments

AU301554 Sofia BTA in English 1516 GMT 30 Mar 86

["Boyan Traykov: 'Bulgaria Won a Great Victory'"]--BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 30 (BTA)--"The People's Republic of Bulgaria won a great political and moral victory," said Mr. Boyan Traykov, director general of the BTA, speaking about the acquittal of the three Bulgarians at the Rome trial.

In a commentary broadcast last night on the Bulgarian television's "Panorama" weekly political review, Mr. Boyan Traykov said that Bulgaria has emerged with her international prestige still higher from four years of arduous and bitter ideological combat, in which she was supported by the solidarity of the socialist countries and of millions of fair-minded and reasonable people throughout the world.

"That combat was provoked by imperialism seeking to inflict on us political, moral and even economic damages," the BTA director general emphasised.

He indicated that the verdict formulation in no way implies that, as some would like to interpret it, despite the lack of evidence there is a lingering suspicion about a "Bulgarian connection" to the papal assassination attempt. "Certainly, even though the innocence of the Bulgarian nationals was fully corroborated, the Italian bourgeois court could hardly be expected to find them unconditionally and absolutely not guilty. It was clear from the outset that the court would try in some way to fend off the awkward questions: Who were the masterminds of this provocation, who should have borne the full measure of responsibility," Mr. Boyan Traykov stressed.

He said that in essence, the verdict practically amounts to a full acquittal, to an admission of the Bulgarian nationals' absolute innocence and to further forceful evidence that the accusations against Bulgaria have been a malicious slander from beginning to end.

The BTA director general indicated that the anti-Bulgarian and the anti-socialist campaign named a "Bulgarian connection" to the plot to kill the pope had been a fierce and far-reaching offensive within the ideological war on the world of socialism. It has sought to discredit the socialist community, and more specifically Bulgaria and the Soviet Union, in the eyes of the international community, to imply that this was the hotbed of international terrorism and the "evil empire," to compromise East-West relations

and to fuel the thesis that the policy of detente and disarmament is wrong, that the socialist countries can only be dealt with from a position of strength. In Mr. Boyan Traykov's view, the unwarranted detention of Sergey Antonov was to serve precisely the ends of this offensive. Mr. Traykov described the investigation as "manipulated and false," the arraignment as "wrongful," the prosecutor's summation as "sheer propaganda," and the reactionary mass media coverage as "a flood of slanders."

"Despite the information blackout and the stone wall of silence erected before our facts, arguments and views, we managed to repel the campaign of vilification and to unmask this judicial and political conspiracy," the Bulgarian journalist said.

The truth about the honest, humane and principled peace-loving policy of Bulgaria, of the socialist community, has triumphed--for all the tremendous efforts by the NATO special services, for all the investigative falsifications and judicial schemes, for all the unscrupulous disinformation supplied by a number of Western reporters. "Everything was fabricated, framed up and engineered at the nerve centres of imperialism's ideological war," Mr. Boyan Traykov emphasised.

He noted that nothing can make amends for the suffering of the unjustly slandered and persecuted Bulgarian nationals, but still, they have every reason to be glad that an end has been finally put to the monstrous encroachment upon them.

In conclusion, Mr. Boyan Traykov announced that a team of the BTA has prepared a white paper entitled "Assassination Attempt Against Detente," which traces the emergence, the growth and the collapse of the conspiracy. In its preface Mr. Sean Macbride, Nobel and Lenin Peace Laureate, defines the book as a "history capsule which has preserved a lesson to this and the coming generations."

BTA Prepares 'White Paper'

AU031857 Sofia BTA in English 1723 GMT 3 Apr 86

[Text] Sofia, April 3 (BTA)--"Assassination Attempt Against Detente. White Paper on the Slander Named 'Bulgarian Trail' in St Peter's Square." This is the title of a documentary publication prepared by a team of the Bulgarian Telegraph Agency.

The book covers all major points in the brazen political provocation against Bulgaria. In 446 pages the white paper traces the unprecedentedly perfidious and sweeping campaign of vilification, named a "Bulgarian connection" to the papal assassination attempt, from its preparations to its logical end. It covers all of the nearly four-year-long intricate and bitter ideological combat, as a result of which the provocation mongers were unmasked and truth triumphed.

Mr. Sean Macbride, Nobel and Lenin Peace Laureate, notes in the preface that this event is a lesson of how public opinion can be manipulated. "In compiling the documents surrounding the events, the Bulgarian Telegraph Agency has encapsulated that lesson for history so that this and future generations may learn from it," emphasises the world famous jurist and public figure.

The paper has been brought out by the Fatherland Front Publishers.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

ITALIAN COMMUNIST ADDRESSES BCP CONGRESS

AU041833 Sofia BTA in English 1800 GMT 4 Apr 86

["Collapse of the Anti-Bulgarian Campaign"--BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 4 (BTA)--We are glad that the fabricated anti-Bulgarian campaign collapsed in the course of the trial of the papal assassination attempt, Mr. Luciano Barca, member of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party, said. Though not completely the verdict dispersed the clouds overshadowing Bulgaro-Italian relations.

In his greetings address to the 13th BCP Congress, Mr. Luciano Barca said: "In the events launched by the criminal attempt in St. Peter's Square we opposed the purposeful campaign of those who were interested in creating tension between Bulgaria and Italy".

Mr. Luciano Barca expressed the wish for the resuming of those political, cultural and economic and trading relations which have invariably characterized the bilateral relations in the post-war period. "We will work to this end also because of the contribution which this may give to the cause of detente and peace", Mr. L. Barca said.

Mr. Luciano Barca pointed out that the many-years old friendship between the Communist Parties of Italy and Bulgaria made it possible to conduct a sincere dialogue between the two parties in the last few years.

Stressing that the struggle for peace is of paramount importance, he said that the Italian Communist Party will resolutely oppose the U.S. project for militarizing space and the attempts to involve some West European countries in this project by means of industrial commissions.

The member of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party welcomed the initiative for establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Balkans.

We will support all initiatives for settling all critical situations by means of negotiations and we will struggle against all violations of the principle of non-interference in the affairs of other countries, Mr. Luciano Barca pointed out.

He condemned the recent large military provocation of the U.S. Administration against Libya.

POLITICS

BULGARIA

YORDANOV DISCUSSES NATION'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

AU291406 Sofia BTA in English 0804 GMT 29 Mar 86

[Text] Sofia, March 29 (BTA)--The cultural revolution in Bulgaria was held after September 9, 1944 and especially after the April plenum of the CC of the BCP of 1956. For the first time in the national history of our country the entire people have access to the spiritual values, writes Mr. Georgi Yordanov, alternate member of the Politburo of the CC of the BCP, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Intellectual Development Council, in a large article published in the NARODNA KULTURA weekly. He states that the successes in the field of culture, the great upheaval and the broad democracy of culture allow us to speak of a new golden century of Bulgarian culture.

Today's literature and art are turned towards our world, towards modern man and his broad spiritual horizons, conflicts and problems, writes Mr. Georgi Yordanov. The population's cultural and educational level is improving rapidly. The creation, distribution and protection of spiritual values is done within a united comprehensive process. The BCP's cares for and trust in those making our culture are paying off in a great creative upheaval.

The proof of the freedom of creativity, writes Mr. Georgi Yordanov, is the critical pathos of literature and the arts, the appearance of excellent works of art which emphasize upon all constructive processes and criticize sharply all obstacles placed before the country's development. According to him we can now talk of works of art which successfully form the new socialist (?classics).

The author assesses the national program for aesthetic education as one of the greatest achievements of Bulgarian culture.

Mr. Georgi Yordanov notes that in recent years the country has witnessed the building of numerous theater, concert and exhibition halls, cultural centers, libraries and museums, the most prominent among them being the "Lyudmila Zhivkova" National Palace of Culture in Sofia, a center for educating into socialist patriotism and beauty.

The "Banner of Peace" movement, established on the late Mrs. Lyudmila Zhivkova's initiative, is calling the interest of children and cultural figures from 110 countries.

According to Mr. Georgi Yordanov, the other Bulgarian contributions to international cultural cooperation are the international writers' meetings, called in Bulgaria under the "Peace: The Hope of the Planet" slogan, the triennale of realistic painting, the world biennale of architecture, the international opera, music, ballet and film festivals.

"Bulgarian culture is open culture," writes the author, noting the great importance of the further deepening of the spiritual unity with the Soviet culture.

He notes the role of the public-cum-state principle in the management of the cultural processes for uniting the intellectuals and the working people in the activation of the efforts aimed at creating spiritual values. According to Mr. Georgi Yordanov the newly formed Intellectual Development Council with the Council of Ministers will contribute to the further improvement of the democratic nature of Bulgarian culture and will help in the integration of science, culture and education and the mass media.

The author states that spiritual life is an organic component of socio-economic progress and a factor of the harmonious development of the socialist personality. The Leninist policy of the BCP brings about the requirement to be highly exacting and critical towards our own selves and irreconcilably opposed to all shortcomings, writes Mr. Georgi Yordanov. He believes that the work of a number of artistic groups must be improved. The quality of our music and entertainment programs must be improved sharply. The cultural requirements of the residents of the smaller towns and villages, the new residential areas in the cities, and the remotest parts of the country must be satisfied more completely.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

BALEV WRITES ON APRIL 1956 PLENUM IN NOVO VREME

AU311448 Sofia BTA in English 0642 GMT 31 Mar 86

[Text] Sofia, March 31 (BTA)--Mr Milko Balev, Politburo member and secretary of the CC of the BCP, describes the decisions made by the April 1956 plenum of the CC of the BCP as a consequence of the objective need to eliminate the infringements of the Leninist principles and norms of party and social life, committed during the personality cult period. In an article contributed to No. 3 of this year's volume of the NOVO VREME magazine, he emphasises that thirty years ago the BCP embarked on a line of qualitatively new solutions to the urgent social problems. The author stresses the fact that in the complicated international situation of the mid-50s, the BCP, while condemning the errors and distortions, did not allow a denial or calling into question of the general line for building the foundations of socialism in this country, worked out by the Fifth Congress of the BCP (the congress was held in December 1948, and the political report of the Central Committee to it was delivered by Georgi Dimitrov).

Mr Milko Balev brings into prominence yet another important circumstance of the 50s: Already then the BCP proved that it was up to the mark of the Leninist standards in its struggle against the manifestations of revisionism in certain communist parties, in the international communist movement. Armed with the decisions of the April plenum, the BCP and its Central Committee headed by Mr Todor Zhivkov firmly and uncompromisingly upheld the purity of the teaching of Marxism-Leninism and opposed all attempts at its being revised from the "right" or from the "left", they adhered to a line of consolidating the unity and cohesion of the socialist community and of the international communist movement led by the Soviet Union.

The Politburo member and secretary of the CC of the BCP writes that the April 1956 line has been making steady progress and has been steadily enriched by fresh theoretical and practical elaborations and approaches. He describes it as a line capable of shedding everything which at some point loses its validity due to a change in the concrete conditions. This implies reckoning with the objective laws, creating conditions to overcome subjectivism and voluntarism, and opening up fresh opportunities to the development of the subjective factor. "A guiding principle in our work is the concern and responsibility for the realization of the general regularities of socialist construction", Mr Milko Balev emphasises.

In conclusion the author dwells on the qualitatively new concepts, decisions and actions in all spheres of social life, necessitated by the new stage of development in which the country has entered, now that the possibilities for extensive development have been exhausted since the end of the 70s.

"A new historical way is being paved, in which we rely on the might of the entire socialist system and particularly on the all-round integration with the Soviet Union, on its colossal techno-scientific and economic potential, on the invaluable experience and creative scope of the CPSU", Mr Milko Balev emphasises.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

DOYNOV ASSESSES SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL PROGRESS

AU271657 Sofia BTA in English 0718 GMT 27 Mar 86

[Text] Sofia, March 27 (BTA)--"The Bulgarian people's colossal successes during the last three decades from the April plenum of 1956, establish the conditions necessary for us to embark upon the implementation of technoscientific progress at the current stage of our development." This is a quotation from an article by Mr. Ognyan Doynov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CC of the BCP, published in the new issue of the NOVO VREME magazine. The article is dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the April plenum of the CC of the BCP, a plenum which did away with dogmatic ways of thinking, voluntarism and subjectivity in the construction of the socialism." [quotation marks as received] The plenum, states the author, has argued the view that "no economic growth and progress in the construction of the material and technical foundations of the new society can be achieved without industrialization."

Analyzing in detail the concrete steps taken during the said period for the organic merging of science and production, for the closing of the "science-production-realization" cycle, Mr. Ognyan Doynov speaks about the growing number of scientists as a major achievement. There are now 25,000 scientists and there are also 300,000 specialists of higher education and 150,000 of college education working in the country's industry.

Mr. Ognyan Doynov dwells on the BCP's efforts to improve the structure of the economy. Mechanical engineering which is developing rapidly, is now turning into a vehicle of techno-scientific progress. Its share in the country's total exports amounted to 55 per cent in 1985 and is expected to exceed 70 per cent by 1990.

Bulgaria's mechanical engineering is characterized today by the production of modern technical means for controlling continuous processes in the chemical, metallurgical, power engineering and food industries and in the development of automation means. Heavy engineering is also developing rapidly. Considerable achievements have been made in electronics, microelectronics, lasers, metallurgy and the chemical industry. The foundations were laid for a more efficient employment of the biotechnologies.

Mr. Ognyan Doynov notes the decisive significance of the February plenum of the CC of the BCP of 1985, which set the first priority task to accelerate techno-scientific progress and to make it the basis for the elevation to a qualitatively new level of socialism's material base, for the intensification of the economy and the improvement of the living standards. The plenum's decisions, further concretized by the January plenum of 1986, note the objective need to have a modern organization and structure of the economy that corresponds to the new requirements. This has resulted in the setting of the task to turn the socialist organizations into self-managing ones giving thus an impetus to techno-scientific progress.

The article stresses upon two other very important issues, elaborated upon by the January plenum of the CC of the BCP: the regeneration of the technologies and of the organization and management of science.

Bulgaria must be actively involved in all major trends of techno-scientific progress, states Mr. Ognyan Doynov. Noting the need to improve and further concretize the current views on the selective strategy, he says, that together with the priority fields of science and technology, the country must maintain a scientific and techno-scientific potential in the fields which characterize modern science. It is necessary to conduct studies in all promising fields, whose development may bring about new products or production trends in the future.

Mr. Ognyan Doynov concludes that the development and the transference of the achievements of techno-scientific progress in Bulgaria are a realistic task. This conviction comes from the availability of highly qualified personnel, the rapid development of the branches that are the vehicles of techno-scientific progress, such as electronics, computer technology, instrument-making, automation means, and from the successes achieved in the economic integration with the other socialist states and the U.S.S.R. in particular.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

MIKHAYLOV HAILS BCP ROLE IN SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL REVOLUTION

AU281132 Sofia BTA in English 1032 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Sofia, March 28 (BTA)--Mr. Stoyan Mikhaylov, secretary of the CC of the BCP, writes in an extensive article published in the latest issue of the NOVO VREME magazine, that the Bulgarian Communist Party together with the CPSU was among the first to draw attention to the paramount importance of the perfection of real socialism in compliance with the techno-scientific revolution. In an article headlined "The April Strategy To Merging the Advantages of Socialism and Techno-Scientific Revolution", published in the theoretical publication of the CC of the BCP, he points out that the BCP came to understand the fundamental and global importance of this process as early as thirty years ago after the April (1956) Plenary Session of the Central Committee. "Then many scientists--Marxists and non-Marxists--still argued whether such a phenomenon, the techno-scientific revolution, exists and whether its social dimensions are as great and important", Mr. Stoyan Mikhaylov writes. He notes that at the 7th Congress of the BCP (1958), the report of Mr. Todor Zhivkov analyzed the basic trends of the techno-scientific revolution and its influence on labour productivity and on the progress of technology and society. After having made a detailed review of how the party's policy in this field formed and developed over the past 30 years, the author points out that the February 1985 and January 1986 plenary sessions of the CC of the BCP have worked out a Long-Term National Programme for the accelerated progress to mature socialism on the basis of the new stage of the techno-scientific revolution in the new conditions in Bulgaria and in the world in the mid-80s.

In his article Mr. Stoyan Mikhaylov dwells on the role of the social sciences in Bulgaria in the resolution of the philosophical, methodological, sociological, sociological [as published], social, management and humane aspects of the techno-scientific revolution. He stresses that the April course of the BCP worked out after 1956 delivered a striking blow on all incorrect formulations, on mere quotation, schematism and thematic narrowness. The BCP is of the opinion that the enormous responsibility of the elaboration of the problems related to the education of the personality, to the theoretical and empirical elucidation of the new tasks of the socio-political practice, including the modern techno-scientific revolution, falls to the social sciences of this country. The social sciences can play this role only in their interaction and integration with the natural and technological

2000-2001

--Overall elucidation of the social changes: In labour, in social communication, in consumption, in the way of thinking and life, in the view of life and stand in life of the personality.

--International issues of techno-scientific revolution.

Further on Mr. Stoyan Mikhaylov stresses that techno-scientific revolution is an arena of severe class struggle, of ideological clash between socialism and capitalism.

Mr. Stoyan Mikhaylov points out that an essential aspect of the new socialist personality is its moral. Techno-scientific progress and participation in it should turn into a basic moral and political value, the importance of individual creative work should constantly increase. In the opinion of the author only after a few years the competitive examination principle in the election of managing personnel and in the appointment of specialists will become a nation-wide phenomenon and probably this will lead to qualitative changes in the development of the individual. This process will raise to a qualitatively new level the individual competition in the country. "A new political, economic and ideological climate is necessary now", writes Mr. Stoyan Mikhaylov in conclusion.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

BTA REPORTS ON ALEKSANDROV'S NOVO VREME ARTICLE

AU281038 Sofia BTA in English 0816 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Sofia, March 28 (BTA)--A course of genuine democratism in social and economic life and of creative scientific boldness and adherence to principles pursued by the party and the state on the road to the realization of the overall economic and social progress--this is the assessment given by Mr. Chudomir Aleksandrov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CC of the BCP, to the political course of the Bulgarian Communist Party after the April plenary session of its Central Committee (1956) which restored the Leninist principles of leadership in all spheres of life.

In an article published in the latest issue of the NOVO VREME magazine Mr. Chudomir Aleksandrov points out that the restored Leninist course of complying policy with the objective economic laws of socialism and of maintaining an objective correspondence between the obtained material prerequisites for economic growth and the socialist principle of distribution created actual possibilities for satisfying the basic socio-economic and intellectual needs of the Bulgarian people.

In the 30-year period since the April plenum the basic funds of the country increased 10-fold, the total industrial output increased 14-fold and the national income increased 8-fold. The output of mechanical engineering is 61 times greater, of the chemical industry 55 times greater and electric power generation has increased 18-fold. Employing 3 times less people Bulgarian agriculture yields a 3-fold greater output. The real incomes have increased 4.4-fold [as received] and the public consumption funds 14-fold.

Mr. Chudomir Aleksandrov stresses that this is a period of bold innovatory work and of the struggle of the CC of the BCP for creating adequate conditions for resolving the issues of the nation's development at the present stage and until the year 2000, and for the democratization of the public relations and of public life as a whole.

The author dwells on the exceptional democratizing influence which the plenary session of the CC of the BCP in February 1985 and in January 1986 had on the entire public life and on its social management. These plenary sessions revealed the ways and means for the realization of the technological revolution as the "super key" to the all-round development and the progress of this country.

This revolution, the author points out, requires a perfected democratic in content and form political system to guarantee that the fruit of the more-efficient and creative labour will be still more accessible to the working people, to the working class.

The author points to the labour essence of socialist democracy as one of its most prominent features and emphasizes that it is being constantly perfected in the conditions of the building of the mature socialist society in Bulgaria. The collective forms of organization and stimulation of labour which are being widely introduced into practice are not only of a great economic content but also of an important social significance, because they are forms of self-government and an expression of economic democracy and of the wide participation of the working people in management. This new role of the managers of socialist property and of the broadening of labour democratism is reflected in the new Code of Labour (adopted by the National Assembly at its session last week).

Dwelling on democratic centralism as a basic principle and mechanism, expressing the essence of the management processes in conformity with the Marxist-Leninist principles, Mr. Chudomir Aleksandrov stresses that the period since the April plenary session was an important stage of its consistent application and creative development.

The article points out that the party requirements contained in the resolutions of the January plenary session of the CC of the BCP held this year which approved the "Guidelines and Tasks for the Implementation of the Resolutions of the Plenary Session (1985)" is an April continuation of the socialist revolution in the conditions of the techno-scientific revolution of our times.

The practical reconstruction of the superstructure has also started in compliance with the requirements of democratic centralism, Mr. Chudomir Aleksandrov writes. It is expected from the first echelon to overcome departmental detachment and narrow-mindedness and to reveal a wide expanse before techno-scientific progress and step up its transference into the national economy.

Still greater importance is being attached to the broadening of democratism. The necessary conditions are being created for the development of socialist self-management. And this means that the central bodies will pass down the resolution of most of the tasks, above all those of an operative nature, to the economic organizations and people's councils. Thus they will receive not only wide ranging rights but will also be made fully responsible, Mr. Chudomir Aleksandrov stresses.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

LUKANOV WRITES ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

AU281034 Sofia BTA in English 0901 GMT 28 Mar 86

[Text] Sofia, March 28 (BTA)--The 30th anniversary of the 1956 April plenary session of the CC of the BCP which restored the Leninist principles and norms in Bulgaria's party and social life prompted an extensive article by Mr. Andrey Lukanov, alternate member of the Politburo of the CC of the BCP and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, published in ZEMEDEL'SKO ZNAME. The author points out that one of the important results of the April course of the party is the open nature of Bulgaria's economy and her wide ranging participation in international division of labour, above all within the framework of the CMEA. For Bulgaria the participation in the CMEA became one of the decisive factors for her accelerated and well-balanced development and for her turning into an advanced industrial and agrarian country with a large-scale industry and an up-to-date and highly mechanized agriculture, Mr. Andrey Lukanov points out.

The author dwells on the great significance of the Moscow summit economic session of the CMEA in 1984 and of the Comprehensive Programme for the Techno-Scientific Progress of the CMEA Member Countries Up to the Year 2000 adopted last December. Even before its adoption in Bulgaria there were scored considerable achievements in the field of the priority trends of the programme such as computing machinery, automation, robotics, flexible computer aided manufacturing systems and biotechnologies. This contributed to the readiness of the country to take part in the programme which in its turn is of paramount importance for the development of Bulgaria in the following 10-15 years.

The participation in the Comprehensive Programme of the CMEA makes it possible to combine the selective approach and the ensuing concentration of the resources in the priority spheres with the participation of Bulgarian organizations in the development of a most wide range of topical trends of techno-scientific progress which may be of interest in the future. [sentence as received] And this would contribute to the setting up of new vanguard productions and to the (?winning) of new positions in the international market.

The long-term programmes for economic and techno-scientific cooperation up to the year 2000, which have been signed with the USSR and with each of the CMEA member-states, are also of great importance. They will contribute to

the establishing of new forms of cooperation, to the deepening of the direct contacts between economic organizations, scientific institutes and development branches.

As an example in this respect, Mr. Andrey Lukanov points out the already established Bulgaro-Soviet associations. This type of organizations present an opening for transference of modern Soviet technologies, for intensification of the production, for closer interrelation among all elements of the cycle: "Science-Production-Realization" on the basis of guaranteed possibilities for efficient sale of the new products.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

EDITOR DEFENDS 'REGENERATIVE' PROCESS OF TURKISH NAME CHANGES

AU040745 Sofia BTA in English 0729 GMT 4 Apr 86

["On the Regeneration Process"--BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 4 (BTA)--"The process of regeneration linked with the restoration of Bulgarian names to part of the population in this country is a natural and normal one", said Mr Kalin Kalinov, delegate to the 13th BCP Congress and editor-in-chief of the NOVA SVETLINA newspaper. He indicated that the regenerative process is irreversible and a continuation and integral part of the Bulgarian revival period.

In his statement last night at the section on party and organization work, Mr Kamen [as received] Kalinov emphasised that the restoration of Bulgarian names to the descendants of the Bulgarians subjected to brutal forcible Islamization and assimilation by the Ottoman enslavers is connected with building a society of social homogeneity and with the consolidation of the Bulgarian socialist nation. The population involved in this historical process has managed to shed the burdensome legacy and to manifest its Bulgarian national identity.

The delegate voiced conviction that the regenerative process, which started immediately after Bulgaria's liberation from the Turkish yoke, will be bearing ever more abundant fruit in all spheres of life, in the emancipation and the unfolding of the creative capabilities of each Bulgarian.

Ms Olga Zlatanova, first secretary of a municipal committee of the Dimitrov Young Communist League in the county of Smolyan (southern Bulgaria), also spoke in the same section. She dwelled on the uncompromising struggle against the anti-Bulgarian propaganda and against the rumours concerning the restoration of Bulgarian names to part of the population. She stressed the need to refute bourgeois nationalism and Muslim fanaticism.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

SOCIAL POLICY COMMISSION EXAMINES HOUSING SHORTCOMINGS

AU211306 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 12 Mar 86 p 2

[Report by Mitko Bozhkov: "In the National Assembly. Session of the Permanent Social Policy Commission... 'With Own Forces and Means'"]

[Excerpts] The Permanent Social Policy Commission examined vitally important and significant problems at its session yesterday. Stanko Todorov, chairman of the National Assembly, took part in the session.

The previously submitted materials, short introductory statements, more expansive or quite economical speeches, accompanied by facts, figures, and references--all these showed an evident striving toward an in-depth critical analysis of the reasons for the unsatisfactory results of the fulfillment of Decree No 32 of the Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of Bulgarian Trade Unions (of 28 August 1983).

Brief Explanation

Decree No 32 created opportunities for applying a new approach in the construction, allocation, and management of housing. Ways were established for fuller utilization of the financial, labor, and material resources of the socialist organizations and labor collectives. At the start of 1984 over 850 collectives provided for this purpose more than 400 million leva and made applications to the okrug people's councils both regarding the number and sizes of dwellings and on the way the collectives were to participate in the construction. The collectives are building 37,489 dwellings with their own forces and means, but only 21,648 have been built, completed, and handed over. In general terms, the results are encouraging only in a few okrugs--Stara Zagora, Veliko Turnovo, Varna, Pleven, and Mikhaylovgrad Okrugs.

It was precisely these extremely modest results that became a "target" of the investigations. Why is the building proceeding so sluggishly? What has been achieved is below the expectations and capacities of the people's councils and the labor collectives. The reasons? Here are a few:

--Unsuitable land and sites are allocated, which are beyond the powers of the socialist organizations.

--In certain okrugs the construction organizations are not rendering sufficient aid to the labor collectives, especially in finishing works which cannot be completed without specialized labor.

--However strange it may seem, even up to the present there are leaderships who do not know what this decree requires, or what its force and reserves are.

The people's deputies directed sharp critical recommendations and remarks to the people's councils which are not managing to provide housing for young newly married families and families with many children.

At the session the deputies also discussed the report of Radoy Popivanov, minister of public health, and the coreport of Dr Kiril Ignatov, who accurately outlined the state and the development of spa treatment and rehabilitation in the country. The report on the commission's work during its period of mandate (1981-1986) was approved.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

ZHIVKOV RECEIVES NEW POLISH AMBASSADOR

AU252030 Sofia BTA in English 1845 GMT 25 Mar 86

[Text] Sofia, March 25 (BTA)--Bulgaria assesses highly the role of Poland for the consolidation of the unity and solidarity of the countries from the socialist community in the framework of the organization of the Warsaw Treaty, in the struggle for European and international security, said Mr. Todor Zhivkov, president of the State Council of Bulgaria, accepting the credentials of Mr. Weslaw Beck, newly appointed ambassador of Poland to Bulgaria.

Mr. Todor Zhivkov stressed that Bulgaria, in close cooperation with the fraternal countries from the socialist community, gives her contribution to the realization of the important peace initiatives of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty, for halting of arms race on earth and its prevention in outer space, for disarmament and detente, for providing of durable peace in Europe and in the world.

New impetus to the carrying out of our coordinated activity on the international arena, said he, was given to us by the resolutions and formulations of the 27th Congress of the CPSU. Bulgaria supports completely and without any reserves the declaration of the secretary general of the CC of the CPSU from January 15, this year, for step-by-step elimination of nuclear and all other kinds of weapons for mass destruction by the end of the century.

Mr. Weslaw Beck stressed that the common aims and tasks are a guarantee of the ever closer cooperation between Poland and Bulgaria. The Polish people will never forget, said he, that not long ago, during the hardest time for socialist Poland, when they wanted to deprive us of our socialist gains, we received the fraternal support of Bulgaria.

The Polish ambassador pointed out that the recent plenum of the CC of the Polish United Workers Party stressed the great significance which the resolutions of the 27th Congress of the CPSU have for Poland.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

ZHIVKOV, BCP SECRETARIAT MEET KOMSOMOL, YOUTH

AU262005 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 26 Mar 86

[Text] Representatives of the Komsomol have reported to the BCP Central Committee on the results of the pregress youth competition. At the meeting which took place between the Secretariat of the BCP Central Committee, the Bureau of the Komsomol Central Committee, and top young people of labor and academics, Nencho Khristov, Hero of Socialist Labor and deputy general director of the Scientific-Production Economic Combine "Mekhotronika Gabrovo," read a report on the deeds of Bulgarian youth and the Dimitrov Komsomol.

Comrade Todor Zhivkov delivered a speech to the representatives of Bulgarian youth. He emphasized that the party leadership gives a high assessment to the deeds of the Dimitrov Komsomol dedicated to the forthcoming 13th BCP Congress, and voiced the gratitude of the BCP Central Committee Secretariat to the young people who have invested their labor in all spheres of our social life. As he pointed out the significance of the historic April plenum of the BCP Central Committee, Comrade Todor Zhivkov stated that now our country has entered a new stage in which fundamentally new tasks, set by the February and January BCP Central Committee plenums, are being solved on a broad front. In the implementation of this cause, he said, the role of our youth and its alliance is immutable. Youth possesses an immense ideological, creative, and emotional charge, which must be turned into a powerful impulse and motive force for carrying out the scientific-technical revolution. Today, more than ever, it is necessary for young people to develop comprehensively, to possess solid knowledge, to display high professionalism, good organization, order, and discipline in studies and in labor. The educative work of the Komsomol must be elevated to a new level. This requires that the implementation of the postulates in the theses concerning the work with youth and the Komsomol and in the letter to its Central Committee should be organically linked with the fulfillment of the decisions of the forthcoming 13th BCP Congress, emphasized Comrade Todor Zhivkov.

Andrey Bundzhulov, first secretary of the Komsomol Central Committee, expressed thanks for the high assessment and voiced the readiness of the Dimitrov Komsomol and of young Bulgarian men and women to invest their powers and talent, will, and skill in fulfilling the BCP's instructions for the further flourishing of the socialist homeland.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ISSUES DECLARATION ON PEACE

AU211721 Sofia BTA in English 1433 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Sofia, March 21 (BTA)--In a declaration adopted today in connection with the International Year of Peace, Bulgaria's National Assembly expresses hope that all progressive and peaceloving people will make every effort towards the maintenance and strengthening of peace and security, towards safeguarding mankind's peaceful future.

Mikhail Gorbachev's statement of January 15 this year is of historic importance for the maintenance of peace and security, as it provides a graphic example of a new mode of political thought and action, called for by the nuclear age, an example of the way a great power should regard its special responsibility for the fate of this and the succeeding generations.

The document, voted by the M.P.'s, stresses that the fundamental principles of building an all-embracing system of international security, formulated in the political report of the CC of the CPSU, map out the way towards the assertion of peaceful co-existence as a supreme universal principle of state-to-state relations.

In close interaction with the socialist community countries, in cooperation with all peaceloving and progressive forces on the planet, Bulgaria will make her utmost contribution to the attainment of the ultimate goal: that mankind step into the twenty-first century without nuclear, chemical and space weapons, that it be rid of the war threat, the Bulgarian Parliament's Declaration reads.

At the same time, the document regrets the lack of indications in the U.S. reply to the latest Soviet proposals that the American side intends to work seriously for a practical solution to the problems concerning nuclear and space weapons.

It is quite imperative, the declaration says, that the arms control talks should work out meaningful and effective agreements that would place a reliable barrier to the arms race and would prevent its spread into outer space.

The National Assembly calls on the parliaments of the Balkan countries to back the proposals on the establishment of a nuclear- and chemical-weapon-free zone in the Balkans, and it appeals for their active cooperation so that these ideas could be realized in practice.

POLITICS

BULGARIA

BALKAN COMMITTEE ISSUES APPEAL ON CHEMICAL-ARMS-FREE ZONE

AU291440 Sofia BTA in English 0813 GMT 29 Mar 86

["Balkan Understanding and Cooperation Committee Appeal"--BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 29 (BTA)--The Bulgarian Committee for Balkan Understanding and Cooperation has issued an appeal giving resolute support to the idea of turning the Balkans into a chemical-weapon-free zone. The committee calls on the neighbouring countries to back this idea above all by bringing it to the public notice.

It is emphasised that the detente process, ushered in at the beginning of the last decade, has its firmly committed and staunch proponents in the world. The political situation in our peninsula is favourably influenced by the idea to establish a Balkan chemical-weapon-free zone, advanced by Mr. Todor Zhivkov and Mr. Nicolae Ceausescu last December. This idea testifies to an awareness of the historical responsibility for the life and the destinies of the Balkan peoples, to a concern for the preservation of the material and cultural values evolved by many generations, the appeal goes on to say.

It calls for a further promotion and expansion of Balkan understanding, good-neighbourliness and cooperation in all spheres of life. It stresses that the realisation of the chemical-free Balkans idea, along with the idea of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans, will have a favourable impact on the political climate in this part of the world.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

ASSEMBLY SESSION DISCUSSES LABOR CODE DRAFT

AU201626 Sofia BTA in English 1542 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Sofia, March 30 (BTA)--Bulgarian MPs are discussing today the new Labor Code draft at a session of Parliament opened today. The argumentation in favour of the elaboration of a new Code of Labor notes that the process of the construction of the advanced socialist society has brought about new phenomena, which require changes in the country's labor legislation. The acting Code of Labor, adopted in 1951, has already played its historical role in the building of the basis of socialism and the transition to the construction of the advanced socialist society, and cannot continue to help in the fulfilment of the new tasks under the modern qualitatively different situation. The new tasks are connected with the further improvement of the socialist economic democracy, with the development of the organizations of the working people in accordance with the principles of direct and representative democracy, of the elevation of the role of the working people as tenants of the socialist property, of the improvement of quality and efficiency on the grounds of the rapid transference into production of the achievements of techno-scientific progress.

The legal basis of the labor relations in the draft is divided into 19 chapters which are arranged according to the way in which labor relations are appearing, being fulfilled and finally terminated. In view of the collective nature of labor under socialism, first and foremost into the system of the legal structure of the labor relations come the collective labor relations: The matters related to the groups of working people working at the enterprises, the trade unions and the collective labor contracts.

According to the draft, the executives at different levels in the enterprises and combines will be elected by the workers, while the chief executives of the enterprises will be appointed by competition examinations. The matters of the election and competition principle have been settled by the new code and one of the points is that only the person who has attained the best results at a competition examination may be employed at a given enterprise and the chief executive of that enterprise may in no way refuse to employ him or her or to substitute him or her for another applicant.

The draft for the new Labor Code also treats matters related to the employment of new workers, which cannot be done without the consent of the brigade

and contrary to its desire. The brigade is given the right to dismiss any workers it finds redundant, or such workers whose professional qualification, labor discipline and efficiency it finds unsatisfactory.

An important place in the draft is devoted to the trade unions who are called upon to help in the establishment of the most favourable conditions for the development of the direct and representative democracy of labor relations, to create the necessary organization for the achieving of rapid technological progress and the application of the new economic mechanism. A number of the tasks set before the trade unions are connected with the social development of the workers.

The draft also explains the rights and obligations of the workers in the enterprises. These are based upon the principle of balance of rights and obligations.

The draft for the new Labor Code treats the matters related to the salaries from the point of view of the understanding that the existing system and the system of tariff rates should be abolished. They will be replaced by qualification grades of the workers and specialists based on their professional qualification and education. These grades will be introduced by the Council of Ministers. A minimal wage is being introduced but the salaries are made flexible and subject to the results attained by the enterprises and the brigades and to the workers' personal contribution of these results.

The argumentation emphasizes the fact that the draft has taken into account the proposals made by the working people during the nation-wide discussion of the party's concept of the new Labor Code. This discussion included 65,287 meetings of working groups and citizens with 3,785,336 people taking part. Some 307,934 people have spoken at these meetings and 180,715 proposals have been made.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

ZHIVKOV RESPONDS TO LETTER FROM JAPANESE CHILDREN

AU181319 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 11 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Tokyo, 10 March (Georgi Apostolov, BTA correspondent report)--At a festive meeting in a junior high school, called "Omiva" in the town of Sakurai (province of Nara), Angel Angelov, Bulgarian ambassador to Japan, presented the answer of Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council, to a letter written to him by the students of the school from Class 1-E.

The Japanese students wrote in their letter: War can be disastrous for human life and for human intellect. In their letter, the students launch the appeal that no new war should be permitted on this earth. Together with the letter, the children of Sakurai also sent a peace symbol that they had designed.

Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council, writes as follows in his message to the Japanese students: I am sure that not only in Japan, a country which suffered the nightmare of nuclear raids 40 years ago, but throughout our planet, millions of people, children, youths, and grown-ups, share your concern about the dangerous development of the world situation, and are aware of the fact that mankind is living through a critical moment in its history.

There are no great and small countries, as regards the cause of peace, Todor Zhivkov further points out in his answer, stressing that the Bulgarian people are actively participating in the joint peace initiatives of the socialist community countries, and of progressive and democratic forces throughout the world.

Comrade Todor Zhivkov recalls that in recent years, the Bulgarian children gathered thousands of children of their own age from all over the world within the framework of the international "Banner of Peace" children's assembly and together with them raised their voices in the appeal for a bright future on our planet.

Together with Comrade Zhivkov's answer, Bulgarian national souvenirs and albums devoted to the "Banner of Peace" international assembly were presented to the Japanese school children.

The Japanese mass media are widely reporting on the event in Sakurai today. The daily ASAHI EVENING NEWS cites the Bulgarian state leader saying that in order to prevent nuclear war, not only is a sober statesman-like approach of the political leaders necessary, but energetic support of the peace struggle by all people throughout the world is also called for.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

LOVECH OKRUG BCP COMMITTEE ELECTS LEADERS

AU141730 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 5 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] Lovech, 4 March (RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent's report)--The 13th accountability-election conference of the Lovech Okrug BCP Organization was held in Lovech today. The conference was attended by Stoyan Karadzhov, chairman of the BCP Central Control-Auditing Commission.

The accountability documents, the introductory speech delivered by Petur Balevski, first secretary of the BCP Okrug Committee, as well as the discussions following the speech made a businesslike and competent analysis of the work accomplished during the period under review since the 12th BCP Congress.

In his speech Comrade Stoyan Karadzhov positively evaluated the work of the okrug party organization and stressed that its successes are based on its unity and cohesion around the general line of the BCP. The supreme task now is to accelerate the introduction of the achievements of scientific-technical progress in the spirit and on the basis of the requirements of the 1985 February and of the 1986 January plenums of the BCP Central Committee, Comrade Karadzhov pointed out.

At its first plenum the Lovech Okrug BCP Committee elected Lazar Donchev to the post of first secretary of the Lovech Okrug BCP Committee. Doncho Nikolov, Evgeni Uzunov, Ivanka Kyurdova, and Nayden Naydenov were elected secretaries. Marin Yotov was elected chairman of the Okrug Control-Auditing Commission.

Petur Balevski, the former first secretary of the Lovech Okrug BCP Committee, is transferred to other work.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

AFP REPORTS ON CONSUMER GOODS SUPPLY DURING BCP CONGRESS

AU031200 Paris AFP in English 1127 GMT 3 Apr 86

[By Laurence Lecallier]

[Text] Sofia, April 3 (AFP)--The Communist Party Congress in progress here has been accompanied by the arrival of an unprecedented supply of consumer goods--from Cypriot shirts and West German make-up to bananas--a dozen new boutiques and the re-opening of a completely revamped department store on Lenin Square.

Concerned to satisfy Bulgarians and impress foreign delegations and journalists, the authorities have put a lot of effort into making the centre of the city attractive.

On the main Vitosha Avenue new businesses are blossoming. At the entrance to one newly redecorated store a militiaman marshalls into groups of ten the hordes of women shoppers drawn by dresses and materials rarely seen. Goods made in Bulgaria are normally for export only.

Shops selling clothes, sports equipment and video cassettes--currently the most coveted item--are all subdued lighting, steel and plexiglas along Western lines.

Even the respectable TSUM (universal central store) has been treated to a three month long revamp. The imposing 29-year-old wooden counters have been replaced by customer accessible displays and the salesgirls wear new flamboyant red and green uniforms.

The latest joke in Sofia renames the store "MUTS," acronym for "discreet price rise" in the belief that the innovations will have to be paid for one way or another.

Many residents of Sofia have grabbed two or three days holiday to take advantage of this good luck which threatens to be shortlived. In recent years supplies available in shops in Bulgaria have been relatively generous when compared to neighbouring countries but last winter's crisis was grave and the arrival at this time of such a range of high quality goods is exceptional. The streets are thus jampacked and queues are frequent.

The facades fronting the enormous Lenin Square have been repainted, as they are every five years for the congress, and signs and shop windows have been replaced.

The Culture Palace, a giant modern piece of architecture dominating the square, is the venue for the congress, which brings another benefit to the capital--the streets are washed and rewashed daily with giant jets of water.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

BRITISH UNION LEADER REJECTS TURKISH PROPAGANDA 'SLANDER'

AU251336 Sofia BAT in English 1239 GMT 25 Mar 86

["Len Dawson: 'I Saw the Truth With My Own Eyes'"--BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, March 25 (BTA)--Today's TRUD carries an interview with Mr. Len Dawson, secretary of the British-Bulgarian Trade Union Association. During his recent visit to Bulgaria he visited the counties of Razgrad and Turgovishte in northern Bulgaria, places which he had visited earlier together with other British trade unionists.

"The reason to visit these places was connected with the regenerative process in Bulgaria," Mr. Len Dawson told a journalist from TRUD. He noted that the Western propaganda, and the Turkish media in particular, is often speculating with the names of these two counties. "Therefore I decided to see things with my own eyes, to hear them with my ears and to feel them with my presence." He said that the dozen or so meetings he had with working people had demonstrated in a most convincing manner the total absurdity of the propaganda insinuations against Bulgaria. Mr. Dawson said that the sincere talks with people who have restored their Bulgarian names, the discussions on the results of the decades-long historical archaeological and ethnographical studies which prove the purely Bulgarian roots of this population, forced to take the Islam faith by the Ottoman oppressors, the acting mosques, which indicate the complete freedom of religion, all these are convincing facts in refutation of the anti-Bulgarian propaganda. Mr. Dawson noted the legitimacy of the indignation on the part of all people with whom he had talked when reference was made of the anti-Bulgarian slanders. Mr. Dawson then went on to tell about the case of a famous wrestler who came from this part of Bulgaria and was said by the Turkish press to have been beheaded during the "violence" that had allegedly erupted in these counties. "I saw him in downtown Razgrad. His head was on his shoulders," said Mr. Len Dawson.

Mr. Len Dawson stresses that he had been convinced even before his latest visit to Bulgaria that the propaganda allegations made by the West and by Turkey in particular, a country of an exceedingly poor human rights record, are a hundred per cent slander. "My conviction was fully confirmed," he said.

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

MPR'S BATMONH GREETED, AWARDED ON BIRTHDAY

Zhivkov Greeting

AU142054 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 10 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the State Council, has sent the following telegram to Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic:

Dear Comrade Batmonh:

In the name of the BCP Central Committee, the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and in my own name I send you most cordial greetings and good wishes on the occasion of your 60th birthday.

The Bulgarian Communists and the workers in our country know you as a prominent party and state figure and as a true son of the Mongolian people who has linked his life and activity with the struggle to build socialism in fraternal Mongolia.

We highly value your contribution to the development and deepening of friendship and cooperation between our parties, countries, and peoples, and to strengthening the unity of the states of the socialist community based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism.

I wish you, dear Comrade Batmonh, good health, creative powers, and even greater successes in your highly responsible work for the good of the fraternal Mongolian people, for the flourishing of your native land, and for the triumph of peace and socialism in the world.

'Georgi Dimitrov' Award

AU142047 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 10 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, on the basis of Article 93, paragraph 23, of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bulgaria decrees:

It awards Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and chairman of the Presidium of the People's Great Hural of the Mongolian People's Republic the "Georgi Dimitrov" Order for his services in strengthening peace and socialism, in the deepening of unity between the states of the socialist community, for his contribution to the development and deepening of friendship and cooperation between the BCP and the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Mongolian People's Republic, and in connection with his 60th birthday.

Todor Zhivkov,
Chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

Nikola Manolov,
Secretary of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria

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POLITICS

BULGARIA

BRIEFS

TODOROV DELEGATION TO PRAGUE--On 23 March at the invitation of the CPCZ Central Committee a BCP delegation led by Stanko Todorov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and National Assembly chairman, departed for Prague. The delegation will take part in the 17th CPCZ Congress. Other members of the delegation are Dimitur Popov, first secretary of the BCP Varna Okrug Committee, and Peter Danailov, Bulgarian ambassador to the CSSR. At Sofia airport the delegation was seen off by Chudomir Aleksandrov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and Central Committee secretary, responsible associates of the BCP Central Committee, and other figures. Jan (Lekhovski), CSSR charge d'affaires in Bulgaria, was also at the airport. [Text] [Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 23 Mar 86 AU] /6091

AMBASSADOR TO PDRY--Aden, March 24 (BTA)--Mr Zdravko Velez, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Bulgaria to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, was received today by Mr. 'Ali Salim al-Bidh, secretary general of the Socialist Party of Yemen. Matters related to the bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting. Mr. Al-Bidh expressed his satisfaction with the development of the friendly relations and cooperation between the BCP and the Yemen Socialist Party, between Bulgaria and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. He spoke about the willingness on the part of the leadership of Democratic Yemen to further develop the relations between the two friendly states and fraternal parties. [Text] [Sofia BTA in English 1923 GMT 24 Mar 86 AU] /6091

CENTRAL ELECTION COMMITTEE FOR JULY ELECTIONS--Sofia, March 27 (BTA)--A meeting convened here today by the National Council of the Fatherland Front set up a Central Election Committee for the elections for a Ninth National Assembly, for People's Councils, for mayors, for people's councillors at the City Councils and for the jurymen of the County and District Courts scheduled on July [as received] 8, 1986. Ivan Palazov, deputy chairman of the Supreme Court, was elected Chairman of the Committee. The Central Election Committee constitutes 43 members and it will control the observance of the election laws, take decisions on raised objections, inform by means of the press of the registering of the candidates and announce the deputies elected to the National Assembly. The commission has a five-year mandate. It includes representatives of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, the Bulgarian Trade Unions, the Dimitrov Young Communist League, the

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Fatherland Front, the Committee of the Movement of the Bulgarian Women and of other public organizations, movements and creative unions, of the mass media and of the members of the armed forces. Among them there are eight heroes of socialist labour. [Text] [Sofia BTA in English 2010 GMT 27 Mar 86 AU] /6091

NEW SHUMEN OKRUG SECRETARY--Shumen, 31 March, RABOTNICHESKO DELO correspondent--On 31 March a plenum of the Shumen Okrug BCP Committee took place. The plenum reviewed organizational matters. It was attended by Chudomir Aleksandrov, member of the BCP Central Committee Politburo and Central Committee secretary. The plenum relieved Georgi Nachev, first secretary of the Shumen Okrug BCP Committee up to now, from his post, because of transfer to another post. Filyo Chakurov, secretary of the Shumen Okrug BCP Committee up to now, was elected first secretary. [Text] [Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 1 Apr 86 p 6 AU] /6091

ATANASOV GREET'S PRK'S HUN SEN--Recently, Comrade Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, sent a message to Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, on his 35th birthday. The message pointed out that: I am very satisfied with your contribution to strengthening and expanding the fraternal relations between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the PRK. I wish you good health, longevity, and new and greater successes in your highly responsible tasks to build a new Cambodia, for the well-being of the Cambodian people, and to strengthen peace and security in Southeast Asia. [Text] [Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 3 Apr 86 BK] /6091

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POLITICS

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

COMMENT ON SOVIET MEMORANDUM TO UN ON WORLD ECONOMY

Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 30 Jan 86 p 7

[Commentary by Dusan Rovensky: "Disarmament for Development"]

[Text] Recently the Soviet government submitted to the United Nations, as an official document, a memorandum calling attention to a pressing problem of current international relations: the economic security of nations. This is an urgent problem because of the normalization of international economic relations and the establishment of equal economic and scientific-technical relations without any kind of discrimination call for substantial changes in the policies of imperialist states, primarily the United States.

The memorandum pointed out with full justification that the main obstacles to normalizing the development of the world economy and international economic cooperation is the heightening of international tension and the attempts of imperialism to resolve international problems by military force. It refers with great emphasis to the fact that increasing armaments, especially nuclear, and preparations to militarize space make enormous drains on raw materials, energy and scientific-technical capacity. These are urgently needed by humanity to resolve such pressing problems as those of the ecology, the struggle against hunger, dread diseases, etc.

The Soviet position pointed out that the foreign indebtedness of developing countries to capitalist countries had increased inordinately in recent years. For example, the recently published annual report of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Region contains these facts: The total amount of money flowing out of Latin America as a result of the indebtedness (chiefly to U.S. banks) exceeds \$106 billion. Every year countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region must pay for loans which are tied to usurious interest about one-third of the amount which represents their total foreign debt.

According to the so-called Baker plan (named after the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury) \$20 billion is to be provided in the course of 3 years to the Latin American debtor nations from the coffers of American banks. These billions, however, are only to help these countries remain solvent so they can repay their debts. The Baker plan is to be used for even greater economic extortion. The terms for granting credit are to be even tougher than before and

the credits will give preference to those sectors in which the United States has an interest.

The current significance of the memorandum lies also in the fact that it points out the economic and political ties of developing nations to the chief cities of the capitalist world. The memorandum also calls attention to another urgent question: the role of supranational companies and their penetration of developing countries. The memorandum also calls attention to methods that connect the export of modern technology, licenses and patents to increased exploitation.

In the Soviet government view the economic security of countries is closely associated with overall international security. The smaller the danger of nuclear conflict, the lower the rate of rivalry in armaments, the stronger will economic security also become.

"The policy of armaments imposed by militarism instead of development must be changed to a policy of disarmament for development." This idea, contained in the memorandum, is very important. Conditions for better economic cooperation will really develop in accordance with the way international relations improve, whether the danger of nuclear conflict decreases and whether nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are limited.

The Soviet Union proposes a concrete and realistic way. It is based on the declaration of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Michail Gorbachev, of 15 January 1986. By the year 2000 the world could be rid not only of the threat of nuclear war but could also develop a reliable base for international security as well as economic security.

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POLITICS

HUNGARY

NEW RULES FOR DETERMINING PARTY MEMBERSHIP DUES

Nemeth Explains Changes, Reasons

Budapest PARTELET in Hungarian No 12 1985 pp 16-19

[Article by Karoly Nemeth, Deputy General Secretary of the MSZMP: "Concerning the Changes in the System of [Party] Membership Dues." Originally presented as a speech at the November 12 meeting of the Central Committee of the MSZMP.]

[Text] According to the organizational rules of our party, the Central Committee determines the order of paying membership dues. The last time this was done was following the XIIth Congress, on 16 October 1980.

Now, in the aftermath of the XIIIth Congress, the Politburo reviewed the experiences derived from the implementation of the 1980 decision. The Party Building Work Group, which operates alongside the Central Committee, discussed the outline of our planned proposal. We also solicited the views of several Central Committee members, the Budapest party committee, and the committees of several counties.

The membership received the 1980 decision--which, by and large, eliminated the previously existing contradictions in the area of paying membership dues--with agreement. The modifications were in accord with those comments and recommendations that the members made during preparations for the XIIth Congress.

The members reacted favorably to strengthening the political character of activities associated with dues payment, the emphasis placed on the principle of voluntarism, the broadening area of authority granted to the basic organizations, and the role of membership meetings in determining the amount of dues. It can be considered a general phenomenon that party organizations at all levels paid special attention to executing the tasks contained in the decision--the annual registration of dues and the preparation of the membership and organizations for activities in accord with the new system of dues payment. In most cases, discussions with the members also took on the character of exchanging political views and thus contributed to strengthening ties to the party.

The political activities connected with the payment of dues are increasingly becoming organic parts of party life. During the past five years the overwhelming majority of members regularly, and in the amount prescribed by the [above] decision, paid their dues, which are decisive for materially supporting the party's activities. Principles and political practice make it equally important that members contribute significantly to the expenses connected with the party's activities. Our party covers most of its expenses from its own income, primarily from membership dues. During this year, it is expected that 69.5 percent of the party's total income will be derived from dues, and 17.3 percent from other sources. The state's contribution is expected to be 13.2 percent. The party's budget is balanced.

In our party, the regular payment of dues has a significance connected with principles and politics; thus this must continually be considered one of the conditions of party membership, a part of party discipline. It is a basic requirement that the membership fee also demonstrate the systematic relationship between the member and the party, and that its payment should take place monthly, in accordance with membership in a basic organization, in proportion to incomes, and in a progressive manner. The payment of membership dues will remain a voluntarily accepted financial obligation connected with one's status as a party member.

Experience shows that the system of paying dues has generally proven itself, but certain of its elements require modification. Especially during the past two years, there have been an increasing number of critical remarks concerning the payment of dues. This is largely attributable to the fact that during the last five years party members were also among those whose standard of living has deteriorated. In the course of preparing for the XIIIth Congress, many members requested the central organs to examine and modify certain elements of dues payment. A large segment considered the membership dues to be high. In our party, membership dues for individuals earning 10-12,000 forints amounts to 5 percent of net income. In the brotherly [Communist] parties, the upper limit of progressive dues payment is between 2 and 4 percent.

Many people claim that, even considered generally, the amount of dues has increased at a faster rate than nominal wages, while real wages have decreased. In connection with this, they object to the inclusion of overtime pay and bonuses in figuring the basis for dues payment. Individuals with low incomes and retirees especially consider the dues too high. For some party members the decrease in the real value of their pensions causes a real problem in paying the same amount in dues, especially if they have no income other than their meager pension. The size of membership dues may at times hinder recruitment among the young, who are just starting their families, or among the diligent skilled workers. Taking all of the above into consideration, we recommend that the Central Committee modify its 1980 decision. The recommended changes do not alter the requirements of principle, while they take note of the remarks made by members and propose a significant reduction in the membership dues. Said reduction will mean that

- the upper limit of membership dues will be reduced from 5 to 4 percent;
- the membership fee will be 1 forint up to the first 1,000 forints, and 2 forints from 1,001 to 2,000 forints;
- [dues] will be significantly reduced for incomes between 2,000 and 3,000 forints;
- [dues] will also be reduced for incomes between 3,000 and 12,000 forints;
- the principle of progressive dues payment will be expanded to incomes over 12,000.

A large segment of the membership commented in connection with the elements of income upon which dues are calculated. They especially objected to the inclusion of monies which, while regularly received, are derived from overtime work or symbolize the material-moral recognition for above-average work performed, such as bonuses, target premiums and monetary rewards in connection with decorations.

Consequently, in the course of preparing the proposal we examined the possibilities for establishing a basis for the payment of dues that would be more uniform than the one defined by the Central Committee's 1980 decision. We have come to the conclusion that the most uniform and acceptable figure is still the amount of income based upon which the individual pays a retirement contribution. Thus we recommend that this figure continue to be the base for the purpose of calculating membership dues for those who earn their living from wages and salaries; however, [we recommend that] certain contested elements of income be excluded from this amount. In other words, the basis for the purposes of calculating dues should be the monthly average of the previous year's income, determined by the above considerations, after the retirement contribution has been deducted.

According to calculations, the reduction in membership dues and the exclusion of certain income elements from the dues base will result in a lower income [for the party] as compared to 1985. Even if we implement strict economic practices, incomes from other sources are unlikely to compensate for this decrease, and therefore the shortage may be made up by increasing the state's budgetary contribution to the party.

Another significant element of the proposal recommends elimination of the membership-dues stamp and its replacement with a method wherein members pay a certain percentage of their incomes, grouped in categories. Resulting from the comments made by members, every effort was made to ensure that in addition to the progressive nature of paying dues, the amount of dues within each category should be in closer relationship with the actual incomes. The conversion to a percentage-based dues system basically solved this problem, and at the same time this will ensure the continuity of progressive dues payment, which meets with the members' sense of justice. In addition, categories have been reduced to less than half their former number, which simplifies the administrative tasks connected with dues-collecting. I mention here that the members of most brotherly parties, such as those of the Soviet Communist Party, the Czechoslovak Communist Party and the German Socialist Union Party, pay their dues on a percentage basis.

The measure proposed for approval will further strengthen the political character of paying dues, stabilize the system of membership dues, and increase the independence and autonomy of basic organizations concerning the determination of dues. It follows the well-proven practice, according to which the amount of dues is to be determined annually during the first quarter, based on average monthly incomes, in coordination with the party members. In certain justified situations, such as at the time of deterioration in the social conditions or in the case of prolonged illness, leaders of the basic organization may recommend to the membership a reduction in the dues of individual members. Reduction in individual dues during the year comes under the authority of the cell's leadership.

Also expressed were opinions which we do not recommend for consideration. For example, [there were proposals for] considering [only] the salary to determine the base for dues; or that expenses such as child support or loan repayment be excluded from the base; or that dues be determined on the basis of the families' per capita income. Others proposed that dues be paid on the basis of the previous month's incomes, instead of being determined annually. Establishing a separate rate for retired persons was also mentioned. Several members said that the principle of voluntarism should mean that each member pay as much as he sees fit.

We recommend that the Central Committee not take these opinions into consideration, because not only would they fail to simplify the payment of dues, but they would contribute to further tensions among the members.

In the name of the Politburo, I present the written proposal, along with the orally presented supplementary material, to the honored members of the Central Committee, requesting that the material be discussed and the proposal be ratified.

MSZMP Resolution on Dues

Budapest PARTELET in Hungarian No 12, 1985 pp 20-21

["The Decision of the Central Committee, dated 12 November 1985, concerning the System for Paying Dues." Unsigned.]

[Text] The Central Committee states that the payment of membership dues in the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party takes place in a basically orderly manner. Members of the party pay their monthly dues on a regular basis. The party's income is increasing each year, and it covers most of the party's expenses.

Our party accords much significance to the regular payment of membership dues, considering it a point of principle and political practice, one of the conditions for membership and a component part of party discipline. The payment of dues should express the regular relationship between the members and their party. Party members should pay their membership dues in proportion to their incomes, determined on a progressive scale.

The Central Committee--taking into consideration previous experience, and the remarks and proposals heard in the course of preparing for the XIIIth Congress--regulates the method of payment as described below:

--The payment of membership dues should take place monthly, according to the member's basic organization, in proportion to income, based on a percentage of income.

--In determining the amount of membership dues, the general principle should be that the amount of the membership dues, as defined by income categories, is a financial obligation, voluntarily accepted, which is inseparable from party membership.

--In accordance, therefore,

1. Members of the party are to pay their membership dues monthly, and at the basic organization of which they are members.

2. The basis of paying dues:

--For those earning wages and salaries, the monthly average of their previous year's income, excluding from the calculation overtime pay, shift pay, heat-hazard pay, continuous operation pay, hazardous duty pay, as well as loyalty bonuses, premiums for contract work, and all monetary allocations attached to decorations, and the contribution made by the member to the national retirement program;

--For those who are self-employed or free-lancing, the monthly average of their previous year's taxable, that is, reduced, income;

--For retired persons, the amount determined at the time of retirement;

--For persons without independent income, the lowest amount of dues.

3. Members of the party are to pay their membership dues monthly, in accordance with the following schedule:

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| up to | 1,000 forints | 1 forint |
| 1,001 to | 2,000 | 2 forints |
| 2,001 to | 3,000 | 0.5 percent |
| 3,001 to | 4,000 | 1.0 percent |
| 4,000 to | 15,000 | 1.5 percent |
| 5,000 to | 16,000 | 2.0 percent |
| 6,000 to | 18,000 | 2.5 percent |
| 8,001 to | 12,000 | 3.0 percent |
| 12,001 to | 16,000 | 3.5 percent |
| over | 16,000 | 4.0 percent |

4. Method of determining and paying membership dues:

--The amount of membership dues is to be determined once a year, during the first quarter, based upon the average monthly income, in cooperation with the party member. The leadership of the basic organization--on their own initiative or at the request of the member--may adjust the determined amount of membership dues in justified cases, such as: the significant deterioration of social circumstances, or chronic illness.

--Payment of membership dues is to be acknowledged by the party steward, who is to make a written note to that effect in the membership booklet of the member. Members certify their payment by their signature on the registration roster.

5. The Central Committee deems it necessary

--for the basic party organizations to emphasize the importance of membership dues in their annual report to the members; and

--for the Secretariat of the Central Committee and for the local party committees to review the situation for payment of membership dues as the need arises, but at least once a year.

This decision of the Central Committee becomes valid as of January 1, 1986.

12588

CSO 25000176

POLITICS

ROMANIA

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DECLINING BIRTHRATE ENUMERATED

Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 11 Feb 86 pp 1, 3

[Article by Dr Vasile Ghetau]

[Text] Demographic problems have always been topics that have equally concerned politicians, governments, scientists and public opinion. But never before has interest in these problems -- among public opinion especially -- been greater than nowadays. If we tried to find an explanation to this reality we should certainly point out the profound social changes witnessed by human society, specifically during the decades of this century, and which have forcefully marked the evolution of demographic phenomena and processes, in general.

Economic and cultural, and also medical progress has had a spectacular impact on curtailing population mortality, and the average life expectancy -- the general indicator of the level of material and spiritual civilization of the population -- has in several European countries exceeded 75 years, heading towards the level, that was unimaginable only a few decades ago, of 80 years! And this, in the context of medical science not having yet discovered the cure to terrible diseases that still annually claim tens of millions of lives.

The impact of socioeconomic factors on the birthrate was and continues to be far more complex and subtle. Even though specific factors have shaped national developments of the phenomenon, particularizing many aspects, a number of factors are common to all European countries: the migratory village-town flows and rapid urbanization, the changes that occurred in the makeup and functions of the family, the rise in the number of women active in nonagricultural economic branches, extension of the schooling duration and other forms of education, spread of contraceptive methods and devices. A very high birthrate could not have been compatible with these changes in the socioeconomic area. This explains the general process of decline in the birthrate and the direct consequence of this decline -- the drop in the natural increase in the population.

This country has not been an exception in this general evolution. However, there have been particular aspects. The process of decline in the birthrate began here

later. But its development speed has been -- starting the second half of the 1950s -- higher than in other European countries.

The impact of the above-mentioned socioeconomic factors on the evolution of the birthrate is an indisputable fact. But under the specific conditions in our country, a negative influence was exerted on the rate of decline of the birthrate by the extremely liberal laws on interruption of the course of the pregnancy, passed in 1957. More responsible regulations would have hampered the process of decline in birthrate and, certainly, we would not have reached the low levels which we know.

The current birthrate level in many European countries is 10-14 born for every 1000 inhabitants. What significance can be ascribed to these figures? We should here make a clear distinction between the immediate effects and the effect on a long (and very long) basis of a particular level of the birthrate. In some countries a birthrate of 10-12 born for every 1000 inhabitants is (in 1983) below the level of the general deathrate (11-13 deaths for every 1000 inhabitants). What is the consequence? The population in those countries experiences a negative natural increase, a decline and concurrently, a process of demographic ageing (rise in the proportion of the elderly population). In other countries, the natural increase is almost nil. On a long range, the effects of the current birthrate values in many European countries are far more serious and sometimes hard to grasp. The long-range significance of a certain birthrate level is reflected in the degree in which a generation assures its own numerical replacement. This ratio cannot be grasped with the usually utilized demographic indicators (birthrate, fertility, deathrate, natural increase). There is the need for determining more complex indicators, such as, for instance, the reproduction rate. A subunit value of this indicator is the proof of nonreplacement of generations on a very long range, if the conditions of a particular period remain unchanged. The current birthrate in many European countries is reflected in subunit reproduction rates.

What is the situation in our country? The unfavorable evolution of the birthrate in the 1970s continued also after 1980, reaching in 1983 the level of 14.3 born for every 1000 inhabitants. Even if compared to many European countries the birthrate level stayed at higher values, assuring an increase in population, it should be stressed that this level cannot be assessed as acceptable. The maintenance of this level over a long period of time would not have assured in the future (when the generations born today will in their turn have children) the replacement of generations, hence, with the population recording a downward evolution. Moreover, this birthrate level would have had major adverse effects on the population's makeup according to the various ages. The proportion of the population aged 60 and over would have risen from 14 percent, today's level, to 18 percent in the year 2000 and more than 20 percent in the year 2035. While the rise in the number of sexagenarians is the direct outcome of socioeconomic progress, of the decline in the deathrate and increase in the average life expectancy, the increase in the proportion of this category in the overall population

entails consequences assessed as negative both economically and socially. And the increase in this proportion is the exclusive result of declining birthrate. The only factor provided to society for hampering the process of demographic ageing and, hence, for reducing its negative effects, involves assuring a relatively high and stable birthrate. Lastly, the natural increase resulting from a birthrate of 14.3 born for every 1000 inhabitants and a deathrate generated by 10 deaths for every 1000 inhabitants cannot be assessed as satisfactory in light of a rapid economic growth in the coming decades.

As a result of the measures outlined by the Political Executive Committee of the CC of the RCP in March 1984, the birthrate showed a moderate sudden change; for the whole year, the level was 15.5 born for every 1000 inhabitants. Even though on the increase, in the ensuing year, the birthrate level, however, is below the one anticipated in the party and state documents: 18-20 born for every 1000 inhabitants.

What is the significance we may ascribe to a birthrate of 18-20 for every 1000? Coupled with an overall deathrate of 10 deaths for every 1000 inhabitants, as the one in recent years in Romania, this birthrate level is designed to assure an annual natural increase of approximately 1 percent. This value may be assessed as average, both in historical light in this country and in the international context. It would meet the needs in terms of work force stated in the long-range development plans and programs and would ensure a relatively balanced makeup according to the various ages. A 1 percent increase rate, however, also presents an additional advantage: depending on the changes which technological advances and technologies of the future might involve in the work force-technical equipment ratio, this rate can be easier modified (in one or another direction) than a rate of 2 percent or 0.5 percent. This flexibility stems from the level and characteristics of the birthrate. Historical experience shows that a birthrate of 10-14 for every 1000 (which would ensure an increase rate of 0.5 percent) like one of 30 for every 1000 (that would ensure an increase of 2 percent annually) are more rigid, more difficult to alter than an average birthrate of about 20 for every 1000, corresponding to a rate of 1 percent. It is an argument that cannot be neglected in light of the coming decades.

An examination, even a brief one, of the physiognomy of the birthrate on a territorial basis or according to the various social categories shows noteworthy aspects relating to what we could term as involvement in demographic growth. Out of the five counties which in 1984 had a birthrate above 18 percent, five were in Moldavia. In other words, "debtors" in assuring a birthrate of 18-20 for every 1000 are most of Romania's counties and especially those in Banat and southern Transylvania. A moderate increase in the birthrate in these counties would be enough to assure nationally a corresponding birthrate.

In the 1977 census, the women aged 45-50 (hence, those at the end of the life's fertile period) had 2-3 children on the average. Depending on the level of education, however, great discrepancies are noted: 2.6 children for women with

primary education, 2.1 children for women who graduated from general-education schools, 1.5 children for those who attended vocational and trade schools, and only 1.1 children for women with college education. The level of replacement of generations is 2 children, if we consider that it is a matter of the two parents. The proportion of childless women was 27 percent among those with college degrees and only 12 percent among those with general education schooling. Hence, the fertility of women with college degrees is below the replacement level. Moreover, the fact should not be omitted that the median incomes of this category of the population exceed the average level. The explanation of the fertility differences by factors of another nature -- which, certainly, exist -- is only partly convincing. We believe that a by no means negligible role is played here by sociological factors, the demographic model and comportment, which preponderantly exist in the cultural area.

Hence, there is an unequal participation of the different social categories in demographic growth. It is not the economic factor that could ensure -- under the current conditions -- the homogenization of demographic comportment, homogenization understood in terms of the relative harmonization of the participation of the individual (family) in population growth by raising the lower indicators to the level of the average ones. We believe that the cultural factor, mental attitudes today play a predominant role. The role of the educative factor, specifically in the family, and fostering of the love for children and of the feeling of responsibility for the country's future appear, in this context, as particularly important and it is to be expected that this role will considerably increase in the future.

Demographic growth is a problem of ours, of all. The future of the most valuable wealth of the country -- population -- hinges on the attitude and behavior of the current generations in relation to motherhood and children. And nobody can be indifferent to this future.

Demographic growth has found its due place in our country's socioeconomic development plans, especially after the Ninth Party Congress. In these documents, the population is considered as the essential factor of socioeconomic progress, and the ensuring of an adequate rate of increase, of a harmonious makeup according to the various ages, improvement of the condition of health and the increase in life expectancy are major goals of the demographic policy consistently furthered by our party and state. Achievement of these goals is based on a coherent set of economic, social, sanitary and legislative measures being continuously perfected. They are the materialization of the provisions formulated in the Directives of the 13th Party Congress and, surely, these measures, which involve a considerable financial effort, will be supplemented in the future with more measures, in line with economic growth, the increase in the national income, and, hence, in its portion earmarked for consumption.

The measures recently taken by the party and state leadership on increasing the children state allowance, the allowances for mothers of large families, and of birth allowances, and also on increasing the dues of childless persons for covering the expenses of society to ensure an adequate demographic growth are factors in promoting the birthrate and encouraging large families. These measures are telling proofs of the concern and responsibility of our socialist society in relation to the future of our nation, because -- as stated by party secretary general Nicolae Ceausescu -- "a physically, intellectually and morally healthy nation provides the fundamental prerequisite without which one cannot speak of communist construction, of a superior society."

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SOCIOLOGY

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

BRIEFS

RISING NUMBER OF HIGHWAY ACCIDENTS Prague (CTK)--The unfavorable development of traffic accidents last year was confirmed by the final figures from Public Security statistics. For the third time in the last 35 years the number of traffic accidents for the year exceeded the 100,000 mark (1979, 109,660 accidents; 1980, 102,517). Members of the Transportation Service of Public Security investigated 102,998 collisions and accidents. In these 1,290 persons died; 5,587 were seriously injured; and more than 25,000 were hospitalized for light injuries. Material damages climbed to over half a billion korunas. The sad thing is that after several years when the number of serious consequences had decreased, last year the number killed increased by 55. Most traffic accidents are caused by drivers of motor vehicles, especially drivers of passenger cars. [Text] [Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 28 Jan 86 p 2] 8491/12948

STROKES AS CAUSE OF DEATH--Various neurological diseases and sudden brain damage are the third highest cause of death among Czechoslovak citizens. A lifestyle of long standing which lacks sufficient exercise and active relaxation and is instead replete with negative factors influencing our organism--smoking, regular use of alcoholic drinks, excessive use of salt, neglect of mental health and a poor lifestyle--these are the prime conditions leading to this development. Surprisingly, the age bracket of persons suffering from these neurological problems is decreasing so that strokes still occur most often among persons in their most productive years. Therefore, we should carefully think about the conduct of our daily lives because these untimely deaths are unnecessary. [Text] [Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 30 Jan 86. p 4] 8491/12948

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